Restiveness in military is over, declares Macapagal

Story on PAGE A2

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THE PRESIDENT in deep prayer during the "celebration" for the gov't's "five major victories" in the past two weeks at the Edsa Shrine on Friday.

JOAN BONDOC

GMA wants witnesses in presidential custody

By Juliet L. Javellana and Philip C. Tubeza

NOT just the fall guy.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday she wanted all the witnesses in Fathur Rohman al-ghozi's escape, not only rookie policeman Ronald Palmares, to be placed under the custody of the

GMA WANTS/ A16

'Why no dancing in the streets?'

By Blanche S. Rivera and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

WITH the Philippine courts' two landmark decisions benefiting thousands of farmers and human rights victims, "why is there no dancing in the streets?"

The question was posed yesterday by Bishop Socrates Villegas in a homily wherein he urged the government to "work more" and to make good its promise to use recovered ill-gotten wealth for the poor.

He delivered the homily in a thanksgiving Mass held at the Edsa Shrine and sponsored by the Kilusan 1230 Movement for the "five major victories" of the Filipino people in the past two weeks.

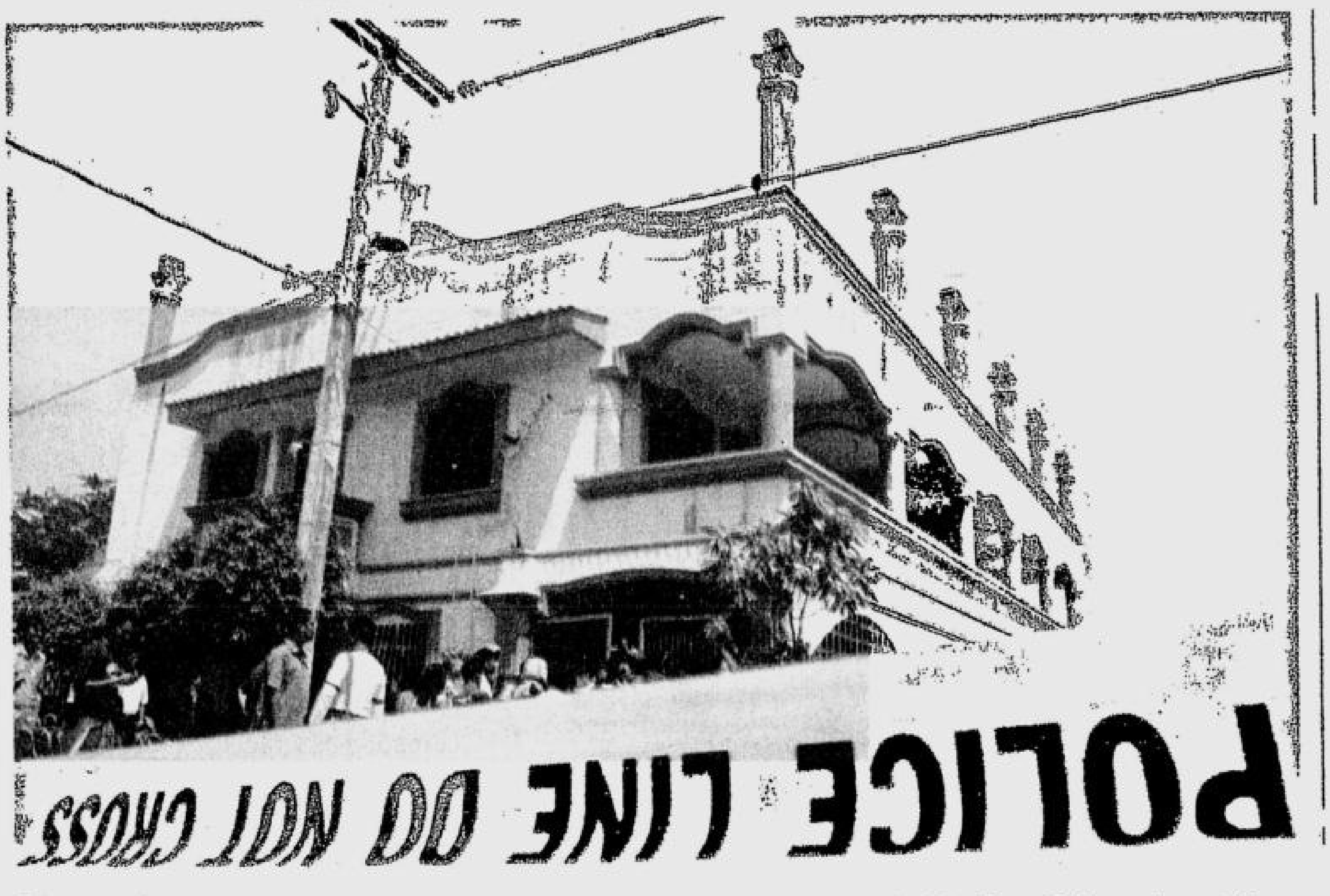
Launched last Jan. 11, the K1230 Movement is a grouping inspired by President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration on Dec. 30 that she would not stand for election in 2004. Its convenors include Imelda

WHY/ A14

REUTERS FILE PHOTO

AL-GHOZI: Escape instructions from cell phone

Al-Ghozi received tips from cell phone



TEN-BEDROOM, beachfront mansion on a one-hectare lot in Beverly Subdivision, Barangay Capipisa, Tanza, Cavite, was home to the largest shabu lab seized by the police since 1997.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Signals emitted from Tawi-Tawi

By Martin P. Marfil *in Manila,*
Charlie Señase and Aquiles Zonio
PDI Mindanao Bureau

NOT ONLY was the gate of his cell defective, the prisoner had a cell phone from where he allegedly received instructions about his escape.

Indonesian terrorist Fathur Roman al-Ghozi bought his cellullar phone while he was confined inside a supposedly highly-secured jail in Camp Crame in the middle of Metro Manila.

This was revealed yesterday to the INQUIRER by a top-ranked official who added that Al-Ghozi got his cell phone from Abu Ali, a former Abu Sayyaf who was out on bail and employed by the Philippine National Police as a "utility man."

"As of 5 p.m. Monday, the phone emitted signals from Tawi-Tawi," the source told the INQUIRER.

Abu Ali reportedly had turned over Al-Ghozi's SIM card to investigators.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that Al-Ghozi the self-confessed member and bomb expert of the al-Qaida-linked militant network Jemaah Islamiya exchanged his SIM card with that of Abu Ali shortly before he escaped last July 14 with two other suspected terrorists from the Intelligence Group com-

AL-GHOZI/ A16

PEA defies GMA order sacking 5 officials

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

DESPITE repeated demands from Malacañang, the Public Estates Authority still has not complied with President Macapagal-Arroyo's eight-month-old order to dismiss five of its officers accused of involvement in the overpricing of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

The five—Theron Lacson, Manuel Beriña Jr., Jaime Millan, Bernardo Viray and Ernesto Enriquez—not only continue to report for work but are still drawing their salaries, according to Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo and Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao.

The five were among the 20 past and present PEA officials and a private contractor that the Ombudsman charged last month before the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court for allegedly jacking

PEA DEFIES/ A16

Mom yields to in-law on son's burial

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Army Capt. Peter James Angeles will finally be laid to rest tomorrow at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Makati City following weeks of bitter wrangling between two women he loved most in life.

Peter was killed on June 30 in an ambush by communist rebels in New Bataan, Compostela Valley. He was 26.

Josie Angeles, 52, Peter's mother, decided not to appeal a decision of the regional trial court in Villasis, Pangasinan, upholding the right of her daughter-in-law,

MOM/ A16

'Grandmother' of shabu labs busted

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Christian V. Esguerra *in Manila*

TANZA, Cavite—Police yesterday raided a seaside mansion housing what an official described as the "grandmother" of illegal-drug factories in the Philippines.

The raid on the two-story drug laboratory in the Beverly Subdivision, Barangay Capipisa, resulted from the surveillance of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) on Taiwanese Jackson Dy, an alleged big-time drug trafficker operating in Southeast Asia, said Calabarzon regional police director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal. *(Related story on Page A14.)*

"Because of this laboratory's production capacity, it is considered the grandmother unit of drug laboratories in the country. This lab maintains big equipment in drug manufacturing. [It] is the biggest drug lab that police have uncovered so far," Caringal said.

He said what surprised authorities most was the discovery of a 10-foot "pressurized chamber" that could supposedly produce as

GRANDMOTHER/ A14

CNN reports 9/11 attacks plotted in Manila

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE THIRD highest ranking official of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network has admitted to US authorities that he plotted in Manila the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, CNN reported last night.

CNN said Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, who was arrested overseas earlier this year, admitted during interrogation that he and his nephew Ramzi Yousef planned in 1994 the 9/11 attacks that killed more than 3,000 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

That same year, CNN reported, the two "admitted" slipping 14 bottles containing liquid explosives into the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. They said they used plastic bottles of contact lens solutions as containers, according to the international news network.

Mohammed supposedly concealed a metal detonator between his toes and carried other pieces of metal and jewelry to confuse airport authorities.

"He said he and Yousef placed condoms in their bags to support their cover story that they were traveling to meet women," CNN said.

In December 1994, Yousef actually planted and set off a bomb on a Philip-

CNN/ A15

IBA NA ANG BEST FRIEND

Miser in UK leaves $1.8M to the dogs

LONDON—An elderly British man who lived in a run-down house, bought second-hand clothes and watched television at his neighbors to save on electricity left a million pounds to a dog charity, newspapers reported on Friday.

Joseph Leek, who died in August 2002 of cancer of the esophagus at the age of 90, left 1.1 million pounds ($1.77 million) to the

MISER/ A14

US Congress report indicts CIA, FBI for inaction

THE MUCH-AWAITED US Congress report on the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks—a scathing 900-page indictment of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)—has raised more questions than it has provided answers.

Released on Thursday (Washington time), the report of the US Senate and House intelligence committees blacked out 28 pages on Saudi Arabia's possible role in the terrorist acts.

The blacked-out section sparked the indignation of victims' families who attended the presentation of the report.

The report also said that the FBI, the CIA and the National Security Agency had received, but failed to act upon, a body of information indicating that the al-Qaida terror network organized by Osama bin Laden was planning attacks on the United States.

There was no single "smoking gun," but the agencies missed opportunities to disrupt the Sept. 11 plot in the months before the hijacked plane attacks.

If various pieces of information picked up by the FBI and CIA had been connected, it could have "greatly enhanced" the chances of uncovering and preventing Bin Laden's plan, the report said.

Sen. Bob Graham, a Florida Democrat running for president who chaired the Senate intelligence committee during last year's inquiry, said the attacks "could have been prevented if the right combination of skill, cooperation, creativity and some good luck had been brought to the task."

House intelligence committee chair Porter Goss, a Florida Republican, said there was a lot of information still unknown about the plot. "This is an excel-

US CONGRESS/ A14

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/26/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

AFP unrest over, says GMA

By Gil Cabacungan
and Norman Bordadora

THE PRESIDENT yesterday declared the recent round of restiveness in the ranks of the military resolved, even as her own housing secretary said overstaying retired generals in posh quarters inside military camps were at the root of the disgruntled officers' complaints.

"There has been some understandable restiveness, but I have resolved this matter directly with the troops," President Macapagal Arroyo said in a statement two days after she hosted a dinner for members of Philippine Military Academy Class of '94 and '95 in Malacañang.

In Iloilo City, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes told those peddling coup rumors to "stop from fueling anxiety and stop agitating our (military) officers."

In a separate telephone interview, Reyes also scoffed at Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's charges that the defense department was itself guilty of fanning coup rumors when it held for questioning troops traveling from Mindanao to Luzon on Tuesday.

"That's ridiculous; nobody should believe that. Anybody who is not insane will not believe that," he curtly said.

Defensor's take

In her statement, the President said she wanted to know firsthand "the live issues that are going on in the barracks." While all soldiers have been urged to forward their gripes through the normal channels in the chain of command, the President said: "I shall not hesitate to engage any levels of command in constructive dialogue. The imperatives of leadership dictate this, in view of the growing complexity of security issues and the speed at which these impinge on the lives of soldiers."

"I shall not be an armchair Commander in chief," she added.

In a breakfast forum in Quezon City, Housing Secretary Michael Defensor said the officers' concerns about housing involved not only the lack of decent shelter for the rank and file, but the continued use of officers' quarters by retired brass.

"Their problem on housing is more on the overstaying retired generals and senior officers in the quarters inside the camps," Defensor said.

Also, there have abeen reports about more junior officers getting ahead of others in the long waiting list for quarters privileges simply because of their closeness to the generals themselves.

Defensor said that the government has only recently launched housing projects for Armed Forces personnel in Cagayan de Oro, Camp Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, and Camp Riego De Dios in Tanza, Cavite.

A seven-hectare property has likewise been identified inside Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig for members of the PNP.

He said that there are 11 more sites that have been identified for soldiers' housing.

"We have long been working for soldiers' housing, not only when they raised some complaints that triggered coup rumors," Defensor said.

In Malacañang, Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye announced that major troop movements were scheduled for 8 p.m. last night.

He said the Palace decided to announce the troop movements beforehand because the sheer number of trucks (nine 6-wheeler trucks) may fuel coup rumors again. *With reports from TJ Burgonio; Carlito Pablo; Nestor Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau; AP; AFP*

MILF 'BRAGGING RIGHTS'

Bush, Salamat swap letters

COTABATO CITY—A supposed exchange of letters between the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the United States government has provoked public discussion here and given bragging rights to the MILF negotiators preparing for the opening of peace talks in Kuala Lumpur next week.

Members of the MILF peace panel yesterday claimed that communication lines between "Washington and Moroland" had resumed after nearly a hundred years since the bloody US colonial pacification campaigns in Mindanao and Sulu at the turn of the 20th century.

Lawyer Musib Buat, a spokesperson of the MILF peace panel, told a peace forum here on Thursday that the US had enunciated a "deeper understanding" of the issue of Muslim self-rule in the exchange of letters between the US State Department and MILF chair Hashim Salamat.

According to Michael Mastura, a former Maguindanao congressman who is a member of the rebel peace panel, the "classified" exchange of communication consisted of a letter that Salamat had written to US President George W. Bush and a US State Department reply to it.

He said the US State Department reply "enunciated a US policy statement on the Moro issue" and indicated an "understanding of our experience in asserting our rights."

"It was that letter that chairman Hashim sent to President Bush that was responded to by the State Department, the US equivalent of the Department of Foreign Affairs here," Buat explained.

He claimed seeing a TV footage that showed Bush citing an MILF letter to him at a White House joint news briefing during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to Washington in May.

The two MILF representatives did not say what Salamat said in his letter to Bush.

Copies of the letters were not made available to reporters.

As a result of the US position as shown in the State Department reply, the MILF peace negotiators said they were optimistic that the peace talks would be fruitful.

Mastura said the US policy statement not only constituted "a positive element in the renewed negotiations, but also boosted the Moro people's assertion of sovereignty and right to self-determination based on United Nations resolutions on indigenous peoples' rights."

He said it also indicated that Washington was not keen on placing the terrorist tag on the Muslim rebel group.

Mastura, a writer and historian, said that before the exchange of letters, communication lines between Maguindanao and Washington had been closed for nearly 100 years after the decline from power of his great grandfather Sultan Hijaban Mastura Kudarat III.

Early this month, US officials and President Macapagal-Arroyo said that Washington was ready to help fund the peace process in Mindanao and to bring in experienced US diplomats to help with the talks as part of its global effort to fight terrorism.

Ms Macapagal said the US has pledged to give at least $30 million this year and another $20 million next year but only if a final peace agreement is signed.

At the forum, Buat foresaw a gridlock in the talks on the issue of who should handle the aid package. He indicated the MILF would want a Bangsa Moro Development Agency and not the government to become the conduit of the funds.

Mastura said the rebel panel has limited the proposed talking points in Kuala Lumpur to security, rehabilitation and development.

He said the issue of ancestral domain would be discussed in subsequent rounds of the talks. *Nash B. Maulana, Contributor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cocobank mismanaged, says Danding lawyer

By Armand Nocum

THE LAWYER of business tycoon and presidential aspirant Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco yesterday warned that unless the Presidential Commission on Good Government improved its running of the sequestered United Coconut Planters Bank, Cojuangco, the coconut farmers and the government could end up fighting over nothing.

During a Sandiganbayan hearing on the disputed 95,304 UCPB shares once controlled by Cojuangco and other former allies of former President Ferdinand Marcos, lawyer Estelito Mendoza said the value of UCPB shares was fast declining due to mismanagement by the PCGG.

He cited reports the bank was seeking another P20 billion in financial aid apart from the P20 billion it is slated to receive from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) in an assistance package.

"If UCPB collapses, its shares will be worth nothing and that could be imputable to the mismanagement of the PCGG. All this (hearings) would be entirely meaningless if the assets are worthless," Mendoza said.

Mendoza asked the Sandiganbayan in a motion the other day to order the PCGG to give a report on the current financial condition of UCPB, especially after no less than a Bangko Sentral official had been quoted as saying the bank needed another P20 billion to stay afloat.

"Why does the UCPB need another P20 billion to ensure its survival? We are fighting about nothing. We are litigating something that is not there anymore," Mendoza said yesterday.

But Assistant Solicitor General Amparo Tan, representing the PCGG at the hearing before the anti-graft court, said Cojuangco was not entitled to information on UCPB's status, after the Supreme Court had ruled that the bank's shares belonged to the government.

"The right to information (on the bank's status) flows from the ownership issue, and the court had ruled that the (UCPB) shares belonged to the government. Therefore, (Cojuangco) is not entitled to information," Tan said, although she promised that an audit of the bank was forthcoming.

Marlou Urbano, lawyer of the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation, told the court his group would join Mendoza in his motion to seek an accounting of UCPB because the small coconut farmers had a right to know the status of the bank that was founded largely on levies collected from them in the '70s and '80s.

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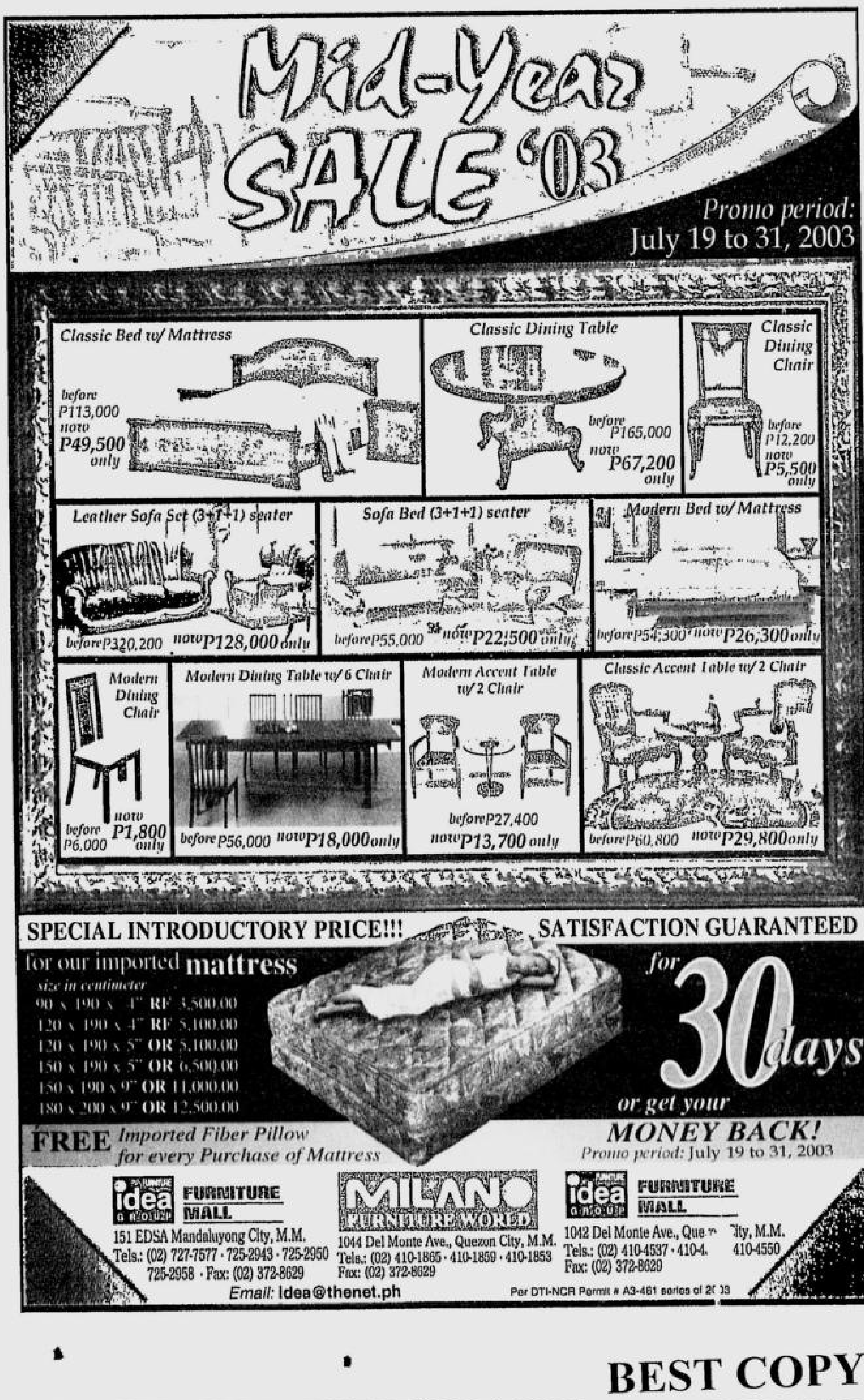

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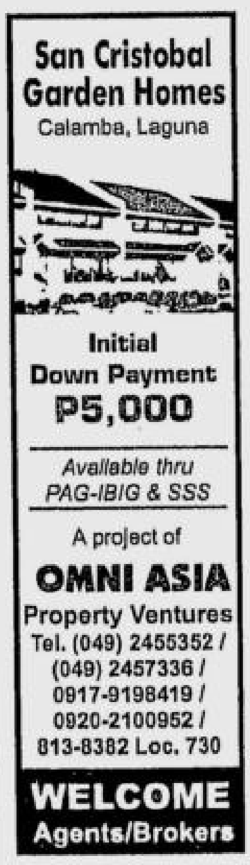

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Solon hits P170-M fee to LRTA consultants

Another smear job, says rail agency

THE LIGHT Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) paid consultants of the LRT-2 project a total of P170 million in public funds for a non-existent contract, Rep. Augusto Baculio said yesterday.

Baculio (Lakas, Misamis Oriental) said LRTA Administrator Teodoro Cruz released the P170 million to MMLRTC Consultants for a supplemental agreement without first getting the approval of the board to proceed and sign a contract with the firm.

Baculio, in a press statement, said the release of payments covered the period from February 2002 to March 2003. While the LRTA Board approved the supplemental agreement with MMLRTC Consultants for the LRT 2 project, there was no board resolution authorizing Cruz to sign the contract with the consultancy firm. It was one of three supplemental agreements with the firm.

Baculio said the anomaly was very "glaring and scandalous" because Cruz had complied with the legal procedures imposed by the LRTA board on the two other supplemental contracts. However, he completely bypassed the same board when he released payments for a non-existent contract.

LRTA officials, however, dismissed the congressman's latest allegations against the LRTA, saying it was just another misinformation received by Baculio from former LRTA consultant Roberto Gualberto.

Gualberto was dismissed as consultant after he blew the whistle on the LRTA and has since been charged with libel and perjury by LRTA officials.

Zosimo Mendoza, LRTA corporate secretary and chief of staff, refuted Baculio's latest allegations, saying the records show that the supplemental contracts of MMLRTC "went through the proper process before they were approved and consummated."

"If Congressman Baculio had bothered to check with our office before airing his charge in the media, he would have seen that the information fed him by Mr. Gualberto was once again grossly inaccurate," Mendoza said.

He also dared Gualberto to file all his allegations with the Ombudsman "so that the Authority would have a proper legal forum to disprove his charges," Mendoza said.

Baculio said the P170 million was part of the progress billing for the LRTA-MMLRTC supplemental contract 1-B approved in February 2002, which amounted to a total P258,063,106.

Baculio said MMLRTC Consultants had fully utilized the original consultancy contract in 1997, having been paid the total of P897 million. He said that for the entire LRT 2 project, the consultancy fees would balloon to a whopping P2 billion.

However, because the LRT 2 project is still unfinished, contract extensions have been sought by MMLRTC. So far, there have been three-time extensions for supplemental contracts between the LRTA and MMLRTC, he said.

BI retreats on travel of minors

By Martin P. Marfil

FILIPINO minor children being adopted by foreigners still need to have the proper travel documents before they would be allowed to leave the country, said the Department of Social Welfare and Development yesterday.

"This aims to protect the child from abuse and exploitation while abroad, prevent child trafficking, and ensure that the traveling companion is duly authorized and able to look after the welfare of the minor," said DSWD Director Ma. Alicia Bonoan in a letter to the INQUIRER.

Bonoan said the travel clearance, which is issued by the DSWD through its field offices and the Inter-Country Adoption Board, would also "ensure that the sponsor has the capability to protect and support the minor's needs."

Bonoan wrote the letter to clarify an earlier Bureau of Immigration statement that had said, in part, that unaccompanied minors did not need an authority to travel from the DSWD.

The BI statement had dealt with the easing of travel restrictions on departing Filipino tourists.

Yesterday, the BI issued another statement, this one affirming the DSWD position.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said the easing of immigration formalities was still subject to existing laws governing the departure of specific classes of travelers.

This would include minors not accompanied by their parents or those exercising parental authority or legal custody over them.

She said these minors were still required by law to secure a travel authorization from the DSWD.

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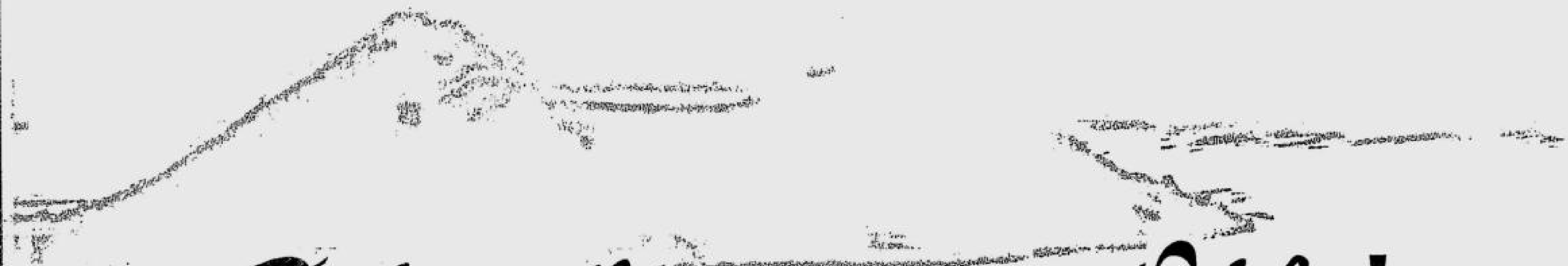

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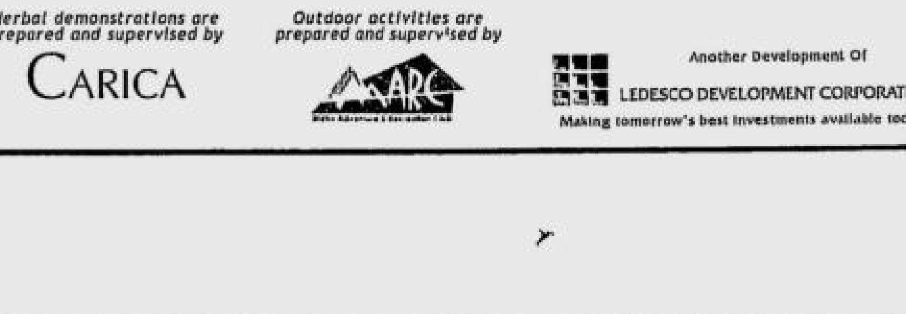

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SARS here to stay—Flavier

By Christine O. Avendaño

BEING neighbors with countries prone to the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, the Philippines has no choice but to be "forever vigilant" against the flu-like virus that still has no cure, Senate Pro Tempore Juan Flavier said yesterday.

"As I have said all along, SARS is here to stay, that's why we should never but never let go of our guard. We should be forever vigilant because we are surrounded by countries that have it like Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and China," Flavier told reporters.

Flavier sounded the call for vigilance as an overseas Filipino worker from Hong Kong, initially suspected of having the deadly disease, died the other day shortly after returning home. The woman turned out not to have SARS, but the suspicion renewed fears SARS could make a comeback in the country.

The Department of Health is reportedly monitoring the condition of another OFW, this one from Taiwan, who has exhibited SARS symptoms.

SARS was also one of two main reasons given for the plunge in tourist arrivals to the Philippines in the five months up to May compared to the same time last year, the Agence France Presse reported quoting a government report Friday.

The number of foreign visitors fell to 688,241 people for the period, with huge drops in tourists from the key markets of East Asia and North America, the figures showed.

But not all was blamed on SARS as the US-led war on Iraq also caused travel jitters in the early part of this year, according to the report.

East Asian visitors, who account for more than 45 percent of all foreigners visiting the Philippines, fell 12.8 percent to 330,999.

North American visitors, who make up 24.5 percent of all arrivals, dropped 10.5 percent to 178,896.

The government said tourist arrivals for the month of May fell 33 percent to 109,803.

The World Health Organization declared over a month ago that SARS was no longer a worldwide threat after no new cases were reported in affected countries, mostly in Asia. The Philippines was one of the first countries declared SARS-free by the WHO.

Flavier, a doctor by profession and health secretary in the Ramos administration, underscored the need for the authorities to be on constant alert for people showing SARS symptoms arriving from abroad.

He said the authorities had the tendency to let their guard down, making it possible for SARS to reenter the country.

"This should serve as a strong warning that we should be careful," Flavier said. *With an AFP report*

No basis for travel advisories, says GMA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday described as exaggerated the fears behind terror-linked travel advisories issued by the United States and other Western nations against the Philippines.

"The plain truth is that these perceptions are exaggerated and they do not merit the judgment that our country is generally unsafe," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

"The basis of travel advisories adverse to the Philippines is not valid," she added.

The United States, Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have all advised their citizens to be careful while travelling to the Philippines amidst renewed fears of terrorism following the escape on July 14 from a police jail of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, the convicted bomber linked by authorities to the Jemaah Islamiya regional terrorist group.

The President acknowledged that there was "a perception of instability in our country because of the renewed threat of terrorism. I am neither dismissing these things nor pointing the blame on anybody."

But she said that "our people go on with their day-to-day lives in peaceful and lawful interaction and commerce."

"We are not an arena of random, irrational violence," she said.

The foreign affairs department earlier said it would protest the travel warnings.

The escape of Al-Ghozi from the Camp Crame police headquarters jail has severely affected the Philippines' image as a reliable ally in the campaign against terror.

Analysts said the fiasco, blamed on police incompetence and corruption, had dealt a major blow to the regional fight against terrorism.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon yesterday dismissed the travel warnings against the country.

He said they would not have much effect on Philippine tourism as people would not be prevented from going where they wanted to go.

The tourism chief noted that bombings have occurred in Spain, Israel and Ireland, and yet foreign travel to these places have not dropped drastically.

Despite the plunge in tourism arrival figures in the first five months because of the war in Iraq and the SARS outbreak, Gordon said there would be positive growth from June onward.

The tourism department has yet to release the tourism statistics for the previous month.

In a telephone interview, Gordon explained that the governments that issued the travel warnings were only discharging their obligation to protect their citizens traveling to the Philippines.

"Travel advisories are a government's way to make sure that it won't be blamed by its citizens in case something happens to them here," he said.

He claimed that Australians continue to come to the Philippines despite the warnings, noting a recovery in the Australian tourism market as the SARS scare and terror threats have subsided in Southeast Asia.

Gordon agreed with the President's statement that the travel warnings were exaggerated and sweeping. He said advisories should be "specific and accurate," mentioning the areas considered dangerous for tourists to go to.

He said the advisories did not even mention the escape of Al-Ghozi. *AFP and Jerome Aning*

GMA gives GSIS seal of good housekeeping

HOUNDED by criticisms for delays in the processing of members' loans and claims, the Government Service Insurance System got the "good housekeeping seal" from President Macapagal for its much maligned computerization upgrade.

The GSIS released yesterday a Malacañang statement quoting the President as saying: "I commend the GSIS for its expressed transparency on this matter. For all the vital issues affecting our people, every government institution must be prepared to lay the truth before the public. Government financial institutions (GFIs) must set the example as part of good corporate governance. I will expect seasonable reports on this matter."

The computerization upgrading project, started last May, will be completed by the middle of next month.

While upgrading work was in progress, GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia has to endure critics decrying the breakdown of GSIS services.

There was no breakdown, just a slowdown, said Garcia.

He explained, however, that any improvement entails initial inconveniences.

The GSIS chief likened the situation to road repairs in which there was bound to be traffic congestion while construction is on-going.

"There was traffic in paperwork and in the delivery of services but, by the middle of August, GSIS members will enjoy very much faster processing of their requirements," Garcia said. For instance, loan processing under the new system will take between 30 minutes to one hour as against three days under the old facilities.

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Mayor's defense sinks as narra doesn't float

By Volt Contreras

OF ALL the arguments he could use to deny the charges of illegal logging against him, a Negros Occidental town mayor picked one that "sank" him deeper into a legal quagmire.

Recently caught keeping a hoard of narra timber in his farm without the necessary permits, Mayor Francisco Bilbao of Hinoba-an town said the wood was sold to him by people who salvaged' them "from rivers and seashores."

But the Department of Environment and Natural Resources immediately dismissed Bilbao's explanation and proceeded to sue him—simply because narra, like other hardwood species, cannot possibly float.

The DENR office in Quezon City yesterday said its Central Visayas regional office had filed criminal char-ges against Bilbao for having kept some P250,000 worth of illegally gathered timber in his cock farm recently.

The mayor was charged with violating the Revised Forestry Code and the Anti-Graft Law before Branch 61 of the Regional Trial Court, 6th Judicial Region, in Kabangkalan City, Negros Occidental.

The DENR said Bilbao was able to "hoard" in his farm in Sitio Batilo in Barangay Pook a total of 268 pieces of timber, mostly narra, with a total volume of 2,797 board feet and a value of P251,757.

When checked by the DENR Central Visayas regional office, the mayor allegedly failed to produce transport permits and other required documents that could explain his hoard.

The alleged hoarding actually started way back in November 2002, with Bilbao transporting round logs to his farm without legal papers and later cutting these to size.

Bilbao, however, had denied the charges and claimed that the logs were merely sold to him by people who "salvaged" the logs from rivers and seashores.

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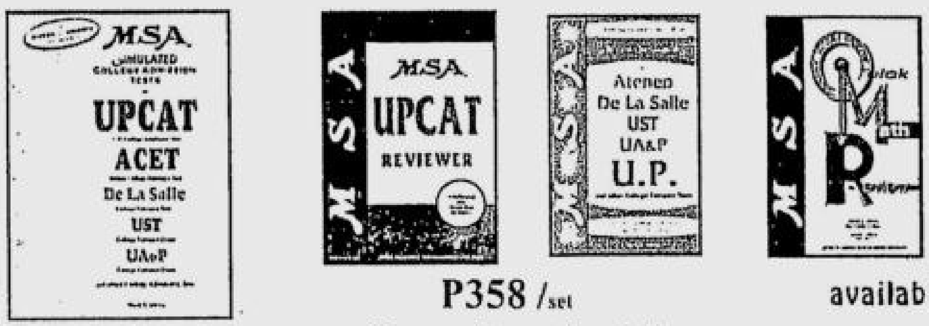

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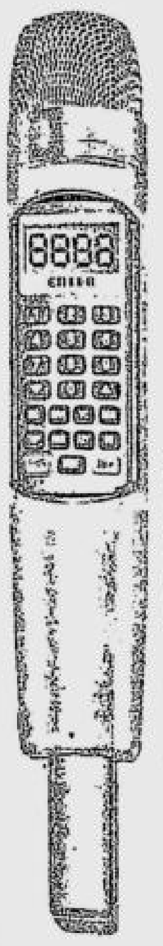

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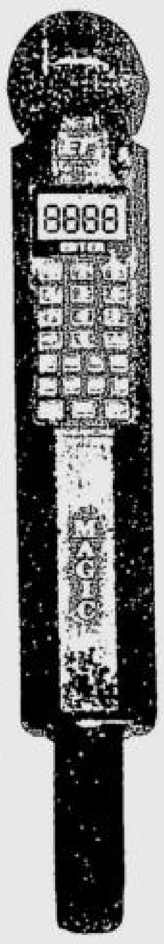

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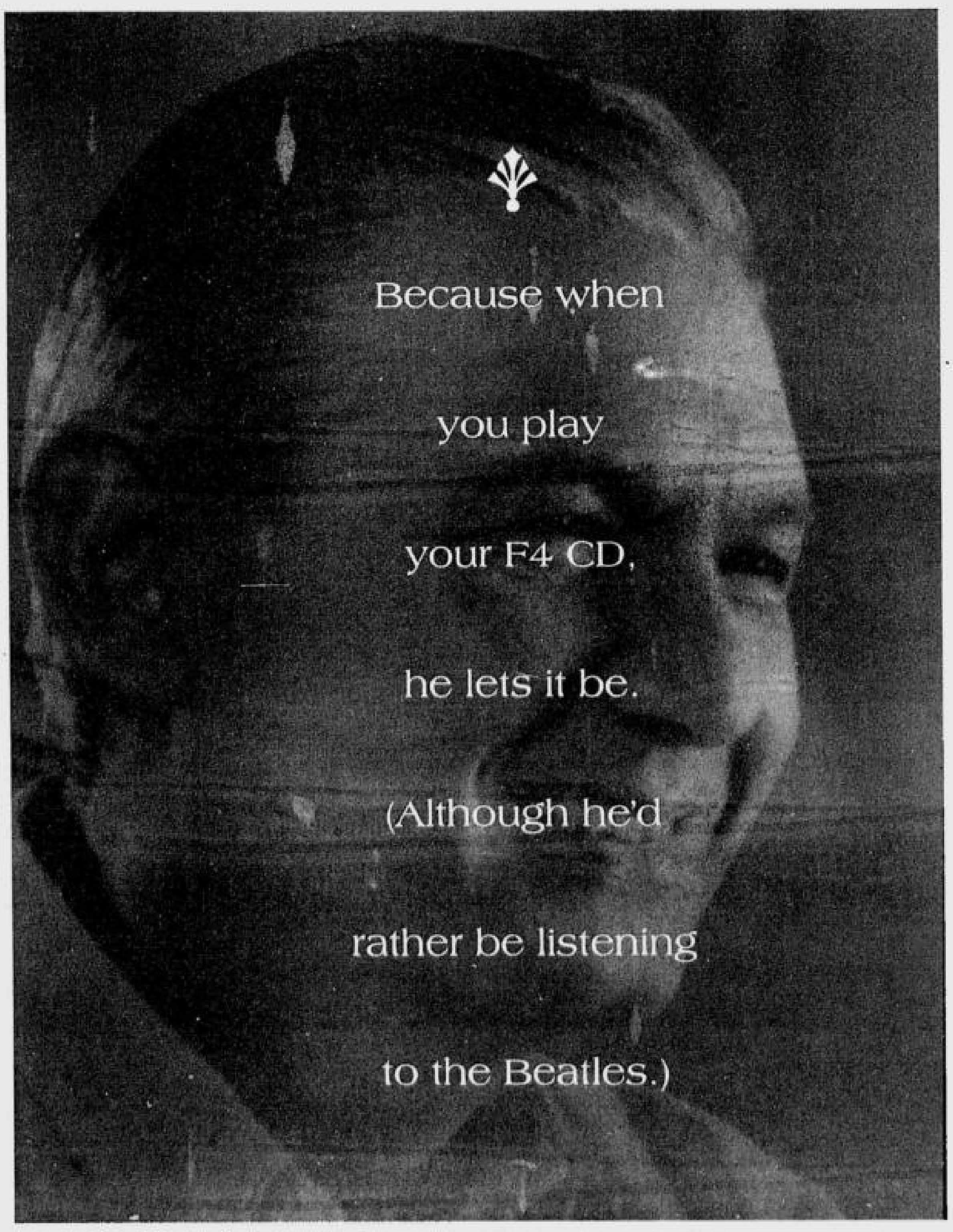

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

Justice

WAIT a minute. We keep talking of the torture victims during the Marcos regime being restituted for the harm that was done to them. In a sense of course it's true, it's restitution. The torture victims were maimed in mind and body and have every right to be compensated for their loss. As well indeed as the kin of those who were slain while fighting the dictatorship. They were robbed of their happiness, and their loved ones of their lives. Money will never make up for these things, but it is a good start. It is the least we owe them.

But it is not restitution in the sense that the Marcoses are giving it to them by parting with some of their money. The $682 million is **not** their money. Nor are the billions of dollars stashed in various places that they have been free to tap all these years, or will be able to do as soon as this country forgets they ever existed. Which may not be for very long: Before the courts ruled against Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and the Marcoses, the public had pretty much forgotten about them, or what they were. Cojuangco for one was free to advertise himself as the cure to this country's ills, the prospective president of the country he and his boss turned into the most backward of Southeast Asia.

It is not the Marcoses' money, which is why we are trying to recover it from them. It is our money. The restitution is not coming from them, it is coming from us. We owe the torture victims an eternal debt of gratitude. The reason they became torture—or "salvage" victims or *desaparecidos* in the first place was that they raised a fist at the tyranny, which made it possible for others to follow, which eventually made Edsa possible.

The money the PCGG has recovered represents plunder, it does not represent income the Marcoses may indemnify the torture victims with. We commend Bayan Muna Party-List Rep. Crispin Beltran in this regard for drawing attention to the Marcoses and our need to find redress from them and not just our need to recover ill-gotten wealth from them. He is right: It is not enough that we recover what the Marcoses stole. We must punish them for it too. Indeed, for all the things they stole, this country's freedom being chief of them.

Recovering the ill-gotten wealth will be no more than a financial transaction if that is all it does. What gives it its meaning is the moral dimension. That is the dimension found by punishing the guilty.

Morality

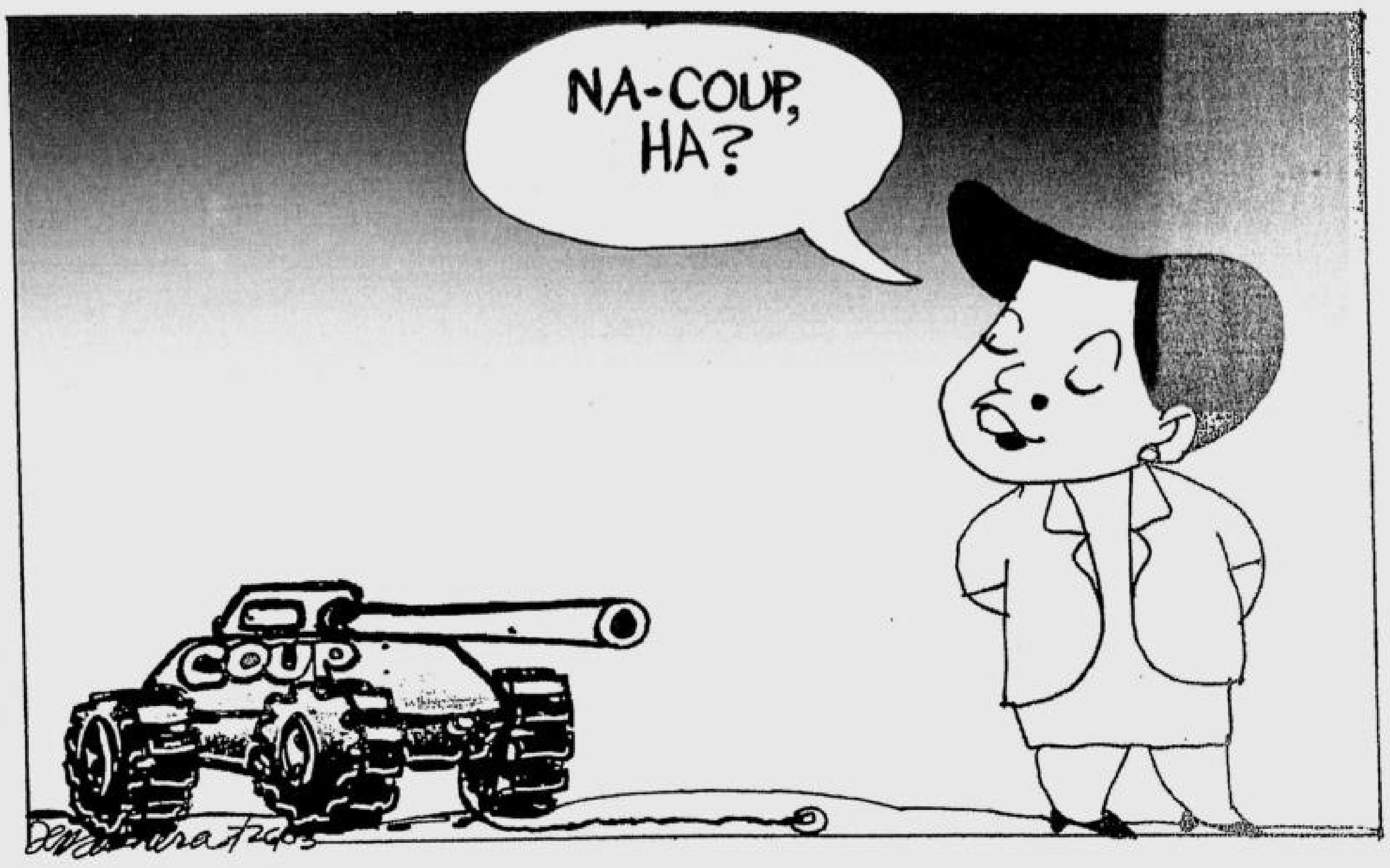
AT FIRST blush, there seems something reasonable in Speaker Jose de Venecia's suggestion that we use whatever wealth the PCGG has recovered not primarily for the torture victims and land reform, as stipulated by law, but for high-impact projects. The Marcoses did not just steal from the torture victims and the landless farmers, they stole from everyone. The money is the people's. High-impact projects, like housing, will benefit all of them.

Well, to begin with, we wonder why De Venecia does not use the P7-billion Countrywide Development Funds, a.k.a. pork barrel, for that. Surely, he should put his money where his mouth is. "His money" is of course just a figure of speech. It is no more his than the Marcoses' loot is theirs.

True, the Marcoses' loot is the people's money, but no group has a better claim to it than the torture victims. They were the ones who built the foundations of this country's freedom, who were there long before Ninoy Aquino was slain. If not for them, we would not be free today. We have no right to exist as a people if we cannot give recognition or show gratitude to our heroes, for that is what they are. Again, money will never be sufficient, but it is a beginning. Particularly for those who lost nearly everything in the fight against tyranny.

Just as well, it is a good reminder to a forgetful country of what happened in the past and what we need to do today. The compensation of the torture victims is part of the larger quest for justice, the other part being the prosecution of those who made them so. Indeed of those who made the entire country so. Yes, we can use the money for other things, but, no, we can't use it more wisely, or justly.

Nor can we use the rest of the money better than for land reform. You can't have a more high-impact project than that, if you go beyond the account ledgers. That too is allied with a bigger project, which is the quest for justice—social justice. That is a quest that has taken centuries to unfold, and continues to this day.



Inept and/or corrupt

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE RECENT gaffe of the Philippine National Police in allowing three top-security prisoners to walk out of Camp Crame is an international embarrassment. Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi is not an ordinary criminal but a confessed international terrorist possibly responsible for various other mass murders in Asia. Keeping him in strict custody pending his trial was a responsibility of the Philippines to the whole continent whose security is now threatened again by the fled plotter.

His incredible escape, along with two Abu Sayyaf detainees, has again underscored the ineptness and/or corruption of the PNP, which is supposed to be the principal agency charged with the prevention of crime and the apprehension of criminals in this country. It received deserved praise for the capture of the three suspects but has itself nullified its success by allowing them to take French leave of the military installation.

As the command post of the PNP, where its director general holds office, Camp Crame should be, to say the least, well-guarded by military and police personnel. It can also be expected that the premises will be securely locked at all times, to prevent entry or egress without authorization.

Yet the three detention prisoners had no difficulty in leaving the camp. They did not even have to break or pick the padlocks of their prison cells—all they had to do was open the doors with the keys, wherever they might have come from, and walk out. There is the further report that the windows of the cells could be opened from the inside, a ridiculous fact known to the prison authorities but never corrected.

Escaping from the compound itself was a breeze because the three inmates were briefed by another detainee, a reformed Abu Sayyaf bandit expected to be a state witness against his former confederates. The three "escapees" must have simply left the premises as if they were ordinary visitors who might have secreted some explosives in the place and were now exiting undetected.

How could the authorities be so negligent? This is not the first time notorious prisoners have fled from Camp Crame despite all the security forces in that sensitive post. Initial investigation has revealed that one of the sentries on duty at the time of the escape was fast asleep and the other was away buying something at 3 o'clock in the morning. Even the guard at the locked gate of the compound was absent.

Such negligence is inexcusable but some say it was in fact deliberate. The price was as high as P10 million according to some reports, which are believable, considering the importance of Al-Ghozi to his fellow terrorists. The guards would not have hesitated to accept the offer; which was fair trade for their conviction of infidelity in the custody of prisoners. They were prepared to serve the light penalty of *prision correccional* in its minimum period, which is only 6 months and 1 day to 2 years and 4 months.

With such a bribe for the taking, there are speculations that higher authorities are involved who received the lion's share. They are the ones who facilitated the "escape" while seeing to it that all the blame would fall on the "negligent" guards, who would get part but not most of the loot. Whipping boys always receive the shorter end of the bargain while the principal culprits enjoy the bigger benefit.

Such speculations may be expected and are probably even true in light of the shabby record of the PNP over these many years. Policemen are generally regarded as predators and not protectors of the people. The public image of the policeman is of a potbellied, beer-swilling cigarette-smoking officer of the law who is out to extort daily monetary tribute from jeepney drivers, sidewalk vendors and other easy victims. Their superiors enjoy bigger persuasions, as befit their higher rank, to conceal and even participate in bigger crimes.

Our military is no less censurable, given its shameful helplessness against the bandit and dissident groups. The rumors of some AFP commanders sharing the ransom paid to the Abu Sayyaf by its kidnap victims are too credible to be simply dismissed with mere denials. Elsewhere, despite their superior forces, our soldiers are being clobbered by the insurgents and, often, criminal syndicates and even by ordinary robbers.

And the generals continue to multiply like dime-a-dozen satraps of martial law, to occupy civilian offices when they retire. The Department of Transportation and Communication, for example, is headed by retired Gen. Leandro Mendoza, with retired Gen. Roberto Lastimoso and retired Gen. Adelberto Yap among his undersecretaries. What undiscovered talent gives them priority over civilian appointees?

Whatever comes out of the investigation being conducted by the body headed by former Justice Secretary Sedfrey A. Ordoñez, there is need for the two organizations to shape up if they are to recover the confidence of the fed-up people. The AFP and the PNP are among the top disgraceful agencies of the government that need to be sanitized and rehabilitated.

Requirements for the Sona

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

CLEARLY, former President Joseph Estrada's goal in making his own "State of the Nation Address" (Sona) was to cast the Macapagal administration in the worst possible light. But the hyperbole employed by his ghostwriters may have damaged his case more than helped it. The reaction of most readers/listeners would have to range from "Things really aren't all that bad" to "The guy must be out of his mind." Only his most loyal supporters would agree with him—but then they would agree with anything he says or does, so that isn't saying much.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's Sona speechwriters will try to do the opposite, and that is to cast her performance in the best possible light. But TeddyBoy Locsin (the final draft of last year's Sona surely came from him) is probably going to include not only her successes but also her failures—in a way that will put across the image he wants everyone to see: a President who is not perfect, but is focused on what needs to be done and works very hard to achieve it.

But even if TeddyBoy were the Merlin of words, smoke and mirrors can accomplish only so much. Whether or not she considers Monday's speech as her last Sona is immaterial. Let's face it, this will indeed be her last, unless she gives a good account of herself, an account that will impress the people with its substance, not only with its form. There is no substitute for solid accomplishments.

The grapevine has it that to add drama to Monday's Sona, Al-Ghozi's recapture has been arranged for Monday morning. The more imaginative presidential critics even intimate that the whole "escape" was engineered by a desperate administration, with just such a scenario in mind. (How else explain, asks my young source, why the President, who is known to have gone ballistic over much lesser snafus—e.g. Roberto Lastimoso or Tony Abad—is so lenient with Ebdane?)

Frankly, I don't buy that scenario. It looks to me that the stage is being set so that the President is damned if she does (Al-Ghozi's recapture is part of a *moro-moro* that started with his "escape") and damned if she doesn't (the "escape" shows the extent of corruption and/or incompetence in the administration). But I cite it to show how high the stakes may be in Monday's Sona, which could be a key in determining her political future as well as of the members of her administration.

So whether the President considers this her last Sona or a stepping stone to her next, there are minimum substantive requirements that must be met.

The first should be a complete report on the 58 targets that she set out in her first Sona (2001). She said she wanted to be judged according to those targets, and so she will be. Her second Sona (2002) detailed only the accomplishments with respect to 14 of those targets. If she doesn't report on the rest, she is dead meat to her opponents and to the people.

It doesn't help that the section of her website (www.gov.ph) entitled "SONA Updates" (I mentioned it in a column last year) has not been updated since about mid-2002. The impression it leaves is that the President monitored those targets only for last year's Sona, and thereafter lost interest in them.

For example, the public has no idea, from visiting the website, whether 0 or 300,000 more women had access to microcredit—declared a cornerstone of the war against poverty (the target is 300,000 additional women a year). No mention is made of what happened to the secondary housing mortgage market (scheduled to be in place by end 2002). Nor whether more homes were built in addition to the 80,000 worker homes and 70,000 homes for the very poor. (Were those one-shot deals?) One has no idea whether or not we now have a school in every barangay, which is another target.

The second minimum requirement in Monday's speech is to report on the targets she set for herself in her 2002 Sona where, to frequent and enthusiastic applause, she talked about moving towards a Strong Republic, which she offered as the stone she would add to the edifice of our country. She should now report on the accomplishments against those targets, something she did not do last year with respect to her 2001 targets.

For example, did she catch (and punish) any tax evaders and smugglers? What happened to the Bucala and Fajardo gangs, as well as the other syndicates (she mentioned 21) that she wanted smashed? What progress has the PNP made in "cleaning up" their ranks? What is the status of the legislation she wanted passed, including the farmland-as-collateral bill (I sincerely hope she deletes the onerous provisions of the bill currently in Congress which, in the guise of helping the farmer, actually is aimed at getting landowners to get back or retain their land by lifting retention limits)? What is the power-rate situation? Have Meralco and Napocor stopped bickering?

A third minimum requirement would be to explain to the people why the macroeconomic targets of the government's Medium Term Philippine Development Plan have been scaled downward, and why, particularly in the matter of employment, these have not been achieved.

Too boring for a speech? Then put these in annexes to the speech, available for everyone to examine, and allude to them only in general in the Sona, so that the content doesn't get in the way of magnificent form. But they can be ignored only at the President's—and the country's—peril.

Budget deficit shrinks by P22 billion

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THERE seems to be a deliberate attempt to whip up a coup scare so as to project a sense of instability during the opening of Congress on Monday. Perhaps to prevent the President from advocating a "Strong Republic." The question is, who is doing it?

The military top brass have been unanimous in pooh-pooh-ing reports of a coup, even as they agree that the junior officers of PMA classes '94 and '95 have "valid concerns" that are being addressed. For example, I queried recently promoted Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Northern Luzon Command chief, about coup rumors and he said they are just that: rumors. He recounted that someone called him up about tank movements in Ilocos and he replied that in the first place, there are no tanks in Ilocos, but added that he would check just the same. Then, too, his Scout Rangers in Bulacan had been practicing for the recent command turnover from Brig. Gen. Gabriel Ledesma to his deputy, Col. Danilo Lim, but the moves were rumored to be "troop movement."

There seems to be a deliberate attempt to inject instability and the escape of Al-Ghozi, suspected to be a conspiracy, may well be part of the grand design. This should not be allowed to happen by patriotic citizens, as it harms our economic recovery and prospects for investments. The disastrous effects on the economy of the series of failed coup attempts in the Cory years are too recent to forget.

* * *

Every time Congress opens, there is speculation in the media about a leadership crisis there. Last year, there was a threat to the leadership of Senate President Franklin Drilon following the earlier abrupt closing of the session due to the attempted coup by the opposition on June 3, 2002. The opening of Congress this Monday, however, sees Drilon quite confident about his leadership. "Everything's quiet," he says.

This time reports say Speaker Jose de Venecia is under threat as some congressmen have been grumbling about the failure of the Department of Budget and Management to release their pork barrel funds. Reports say the tensions eased up following the release of half of the money last June 30. The other half is expected to be released by the first week of August. It leaves a bad taste in the mouth, nonetheless, when some members of Congress are reported to want to stage a coup because their pork barrel has not been released. It makes them look mercenary.

* * *

Actually, House sources say that rumors of a House coup were sustained following the supposedly "off-the-record" press conference called by Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales last Tuesday. He was quoted as telling select members of the media that he would "continue to listen to the gripes" of his fellow lawmakers, but the more interesting part of his statement, according to sources, was, "*Kung kaya ko*, I will try to get the speakership myself." I have heard that Gonzalez was being titillated by certain NPC solons harboring "grudges" against JDV, but I didn't realize he was that titillated.

* * *

Last Thursday, fans and political supporters of movie king Fernando Poe Jr. held a motorcade around Quezon Memorial Circle, composed of a long line of motorcycles and many cars festooned with blue balloons and bearing stickers with the letters "FPJ FP," which obviously meant FPJ for President. Could this be a preview of FPJ's plan, as reported in the media, to declare his candidacy on Aug. 20, his birthday? Coincidentally or not, FPJ came in quite strong in the SWS/Polistrat survey results released on the same day. In a three-way race, Sen. Noli de Castro garnered 30 percent, Roco 27 percent and FPJ 23 percent, with 21 percent undecided.

* * *

The Ateneo University recently held a special academic convocation to honor several individuals and an NGO, the Philippine Business for Social Progress, for their contributions to the nation. One of the two awardees for the Government Service Award was the low-key, hardworking UP and Harvard-trained Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, who was cited for her efforts "to strengthen budget management in government service." The award couldn't be more deserved. For while the budget deficit been growing steadily since 1998, for the first time since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office, the deficit in the first six months of 2003 amounted to only P79.6 billion, or P22 billion lower than the programmed P102.2 billion, and 33 percent lower than the P119.7 billion shortfall last year. For the month of June 2003, the budget gap dropped to P4.2 billion, or 70.2 percent lower than the P14 billion target for June, and 65.4 percent lower than June 2002.

* * *

When Joseph Estrada took over from Fidel V. Ramos in 1998, he inherited a fiscal deficit of P24 billion, but by the time he was deposed, this had ballooned to P134.21 billion. During the Macapagal administration, the deficit further grew to P147.02 billion in 2001 and P210.74 billion in 2002. As Boncodin put it, "*Tiniis muna namin ang dalawang taon*," but this year, the deficit began to shrink until last month, when it registered a spectacular 65.4 percent drop.

* * *

I queried her about the reason for the dramatic shrinking of the budget deficit and she ascribed it to the tight cap on fiscal spending and increased revenues. She attributed the rise in revenue collections to the hands-on approach of GMA. "She really drives the BIR and Customs hard," says Boncodin, and it paid off with a 7.2 percent increase in the first semester revenues over last year. She pointed out that GMA initiated last October the quarterly "revenue command conferences," participated in by the economic team composed of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Boncodin and Economic Planning Secretary Romy Neri, as well as regional directors of the BIR and Customs.

Reasons to celebrate

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BELIEVE it or not, there are still many reasons to celebrate being Filipino, living in the Philippines, in this time of coup rumors (again?!) and convicted terrorists who walk out of their prisons through the front door.

As the "Kilusang 1230," an alliance of non-government and civic organizations, said in a statement: "When it rains, it pours," referring to recent developments, "five great news [stories]," that unfolded over nine days from July 12 to July 21.

These are: "First, the Sandiganbayan's decision forfeiting in favor of the government the multibillion-peso coco levy funds in UCPB, illegally-acquired by Danding Cojuangco. Second, the Supreme Court decision declaring as ill-gotten the Marcos family's Swiss bank accounts worth P38 billion now in an escrow account of the PNB in favor of government. Third, the Senate committee's decision favoring the election of constitutional convention delegates on May 2004. Fourth, the President's decision calling for a ceasefire and the resumption of peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). Finally, the Department of Finance's prosecution for graft and corruption of four top officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs."

The K1230 movement, which describes itself as "a broad social reform-focused movement of various civil society groups in the country" founded soon after President Macapagal-Arroyo announced last Dec. 30 that she was not running in next year's polls, wanted to publicly air their "thanks and commendations" to the following: "PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac and her equally committed and competent commissioners like Ruben Carranza and Vyva Aguirre, Ombudsman Sonny Marcelo, the Sandiganbayan First Division Chair Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide and Associate Justice Renato Corona, Department of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, the Senate President Franklin Drilon, and finally President Macapagal-Arroyo not only for ordering the resumption of peace talks with MILF but most especially for appointing Haydee Yorac and the commissioners to the PCGG. They all redeemed the institutions they represent and made us all proud and hopeful for our country."

* * *

THE STATEMENT also acknowledges the work and commitment of various small coconut farmers' organizations, social and peace movements as well as of individuals like lawyer Francisco Chavez and Fr. Bert Layson "who all struggled for social justice, peace and political reforms. They persistently fought a good fight and affirmed our long-held belief that in the end, truth and justice prevail. Let us all savor these big initial victories and be re-energized and inspired to pursue them fully to their logical end."

Beyond the praise and commendations, the K1230 also called on the President and her official family to carry out the following crucial measures:

"Speed up the process of taking over control of UCPB, SMC, and other companies built through the coconut levy and liquefy these assets to build a trust fund for the development of the small coconut farmers and the coconut industry as a whole;

"Strongly advocate in Congress to allocate the newly acquired ill-gotten wealth to the difficult and persistently ill-funded Land Acquisition and Distribution (LAD) component of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, so we can finish distribution of big landholdings and those being pursued by farmers organizations before May 2004. Further delay in the land distribution process will result (in) prolonged misery and bondage of millions of farmer families, continuous insurgency and its consequent disruption to the economy among many others. There will always be money sourced from elsewhere for support services, but not for land distribution.

"Pursue vigorously the acquisition of more ill-gotten wealth;

"Immediately assist 50,000 evacuees to go home and rebuild their houses, their livelihoods, and their lives and to start discussion on proposals that have long term and systemic implications such as the idea of a federal system, to finally end the centuries-old protracted war in the South."

To Congress, the K1230 appealed for the passage of laws that will:

"Indemnify the thousands of human rights victims under the Marcos dictatorship as ordered by Honolulu Judge Real;

"Reform our taxation and financial systems such as the passage of the NRA bill before year ends; and

"Ensure the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention by May 2004."

* * *

FROM Imelda Agustin, human resource manager of A. Bylsons & Co., Inc., comes this rejoinder to allegations aired by the president of its union that appeared in this space yesterday and the day before.

Agustin denies that the company closed shop or is now operating a "runaway shop" in Calamba, Laguna. A. Bylsons, she said, "moved our operations from Las Piñas to Calamba, Laguna. This was done after duly notifying all the 152 employees (not only 95 as mentioned in your articles). Out of the 152 permanent employees of the company, 100 workers reported for work in Calamba as instructed (while) the other 52 did not report for work due to unknown or invalid reasons."

The move to Calamba, said Agustin, is the result of their efforts to "consolidate operations and survive the difficulties of work until the next orders start production around October."

As stated in my column, the charges raised by the union are currently under compulsory arbitration with the NLRC, as certified by Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas.

By the Short & Curlies

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

GRRRRR, as my friend Manolo would say. Not to mention ugs and yucks! Meralco's June-July bill arrived and if I weren't so annoyed, it would be funny. What their foreign consultants need are new thesauruses.

Meralco being a public company, having Elpie Cuna around does at least answer questions. The government by the nature of the beast doesn't have to bother. Think of it: If you're good and bored with the government, what do you do? If you're law-abiding, not much. I mean sure you could stage another Edsa 3, 4 or 5, presuming you have the money (although why you wouldn't chose instead to relax in the French, Italian or Dalmatian Coasts beats me), but it's still no guarantee. The last one who tried it didn't succeed and is now rotting in jail.

The long and short of it is, a lot of that bill doesn't go to Meralco, which after all is a public company in the business of making money. It goes to the government whose business supposedly is public service. It turns out for instance that the "Power Act Redn" (What's that, a reduction? Doubtful: when it comes to taxes nothing ever gets reduced except the quality of service) is something that was only just approved this year. Whatever it is, I'm sure it's another added burden on long-suffering us, your idiot taxpayers.

Now tell me true: If the ITP (idiot taxpayer) is anteing for the fossil fuel of your SUVs as well as that of your bodyguards in the back-up cars, not to mention the bodyguards themselves, and your air-conditioners, why in that name of everything that's crappy wouldn't you sign any increases? You're not paying for it. It's that ITP who by the way has a vote that doesn't count because he's in the minority. How's that for "Yes, the Filipino can" or "This nation can be great again"?

You have to be amused (if you can manage after you're done tearing your hair) by that "Life Line Rate Subsidy" that should be renamed "Lifestyle Rate Subsidy" since this must be the support for your favorite representative to maintain them in the style they weren't accustomed to before they were elected by non-taxpayers.

As for the "Interclass Subsidy," don't look at me. Aside from my favorite rep, I don't know what interclass they're talking about. Actually I'm scared to find out. What if we're subsidizing one of those low lives we're forever reading about on the front pages who don't even know how to have jail doors constructed? . On second thought, maybe it was done on purpose since it's impossible the brass wasn't aware since Fathur al-Ghozi wasn't the first nor, by the looks of it, will he be the last.

In the meantime, I'd still like to know why we're getting slapped with a "Franchise Tax" when we're not the ones with the franchise. We're not making any money on it, are we now? Shouldn't the Lopezes be the ones to pay it? If, on the other hand, both the supplier and the consumer both have to pay the tax, then there's really something rotten—and it's not in Denmark either.

And then there's the "Retail Customer Charge" as well as the "Systems Metering Charge" and the "Supply Charge." Let's analyze that. We're paying a retail charge (as against wholesale, one presumes) on top of all the other charges like "Generation," "Transmission" and "Distribution." What exactly does that mean? I have to pay to be a customer? Hey, c'mon, did we have any choice in the matter?

Of course, if you're paying for power to be generated, transmitted and distributed, how come you're also paying for it to be supplied? If not, what does the "Supply Charge" refer to? (Told you they needed a new thesaurus.)

As I noted, we're being charged universally, not locally, mind you. Not nationally but universally. Hmmm ... government power extends to Alpha Centauri; we can never get away from them? And under that is that notorious "Missionary." That completely escapes me. Is this the same as what we used to have in Assumption in those long dead days beyond recall when we held a fair for Mission Sunday for the Africans or whoever we were saving? They tell me the Opus Dei parents (ex-Assumption girls) have taken that over—tombola and all. Has the government joined in the act?

Just to make my day (yours too, by the way), there's this new agreement between Napocor and Meralco (guess who ends up wearing the dunce's cap) whereby Meralco will compensate Napocor P27.515 billion for the electricity it failed to use as stipulated under their CSE. Then Napocor will pay Meralco P7.465 billion for its failure to provide transmission services to the IPPs of Meralco. The net settlement is P20.05 billion.

Well and good, right? No way, Jose. Turns out the neat little figure of P20 billion will be passed on to ITPs (that's us, idiot taxpayers, who else?) for a period of five years. Excuse me, I don't remember anybody asking my opinion on the matter. Nor do I remember my agreeing to pay anybody anything. What is this crap?

Note that it wasn't us who failed to buy the power from Napocor, it was Meralco. So why are we answerable? According to an e-mail I received, the energy charge and power purchase adjustment (PPA) found in our previous bills and the generation charge in the new bills have already incorporated the cost of power that Napocor charges Meralco, including the power that Meralco failed to purchase since 2001. You wanna bet, it's not going to make any difference that it's double compensation or that under the Civil Code governing contracts, a party who commits a breach of contract is the one liable plus damages. In this case, the Civil Code isn't obviously worth the paper it's printed on.

Disconnected

YOUNG BLOOD

Alfredo O. Dimaano Jr.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

AS if it were not sad enough that I am jobless and heartbroken, I lost my two-month-old cell phone three days ago. I cannot understand it, but it feels like losing the phone is more traumatic than my heartbreak.

Although I had my cell phone for only a short time, it had become an integral part of my system. It was the first thing I checked when I woke up in the morning and the last thing I saw before I went to sleep at night. It was one of my prized possessions, and losing it feels like losing my bladder, I imagine.

This was how it happened. It was nearly three o'clock in the afternoon when I decided to go to the city, just a 20-minute ride from our place. My purpose: to go to an Internet cafe and check if any of the companies where I submitted my resume had responded. I had been waiting for nearly two weeks for any replies, but I heard nothing from my prospective employers on my cell phone.

I opened my inbox and found out eight new e-mails—all from my Internet subscription. I sent by text my e-mail address to my sister so she could check it daily since she works in an office and has easy access to the web. As for me I have to dress up, pay fare and rent a computer to see if I have mail. To add to my expenses, I never fail to visit any one of the fast-food chains before going home.

I passed by a newsstand to buy the morning paper, hoping to get some ideas about going into business if I finally got tired of job-hunting. Then I got on a jeepney for the trip back home.

As I was getting off, I noticed that the bulge on my right front pocket was gone. It meant only one thing: my phone had been stolen.

Like any victim of this crime, I was on the verge of tears. My knees seemed unable to carry the weight of my body. I felt numb all over. It felt as if the world had stopped. I seemed to have even forgotten the name of the girl who had broken my heart only a few days earlier. It was one of those moments when you have to vigorously disagree with what your Values Education teacher taught you, like: "The best things in life are not things" or "A cell phone is just a cellphone." These words were powerless and meaningless.

What scares me now is telling Kuya, who by the way was the one who gave the phone as his graduation gift, about the loss. I can almost hear him shouting over the phone: "*Abla, akala mo yata basta hinihukay dito sa Italya ang pera. Puro kalyo na nga itong mga kamay ko* (Do you think we just dig up money from the ground here in Italy? My hands have grown callous with work)."

Kuya actually called yesterday through my sister's cell phone. While they were talking, I was signaling furiously to her not to tell him. She gave me a nasty look but still did as I asked.

If Kuya gets mad at me, I will tell him that I'm going to pay for it. But not now. Sure I can buy a new one but it will take some time yet. I first have to find a job and buy a phone with my own sweat.

Honestly, its more than just a phone that I lost. It has a lot of sentimental value to me and is, therefore, priceless. God, it had become more than a gadget or a 21st-century toy for me. It had become my friend and companion. It knew me down to every detail even more than my mother. It was the silent witness when she turned me down, and it must have shed some tears too. It carried all her text messages from the simple "Thank you" for a gift I gave her down to the routinary "Gud nyt" and "Hi!" I even made a folder that no one was allowed to peak into. It served as an inbox for my former crush's problems and emotional distress after a failed relationship. It was a storehouse for "kilig-to-the-bones" messages, clean jokes and my daily reflections.

Its phonebook listed more than a hundred names of relatives, friends, teachers, enemies, future prospects, radio request text lines, "orgmates," etc. What worries me a lot is that the conscienceless thief might just erase all those precious messages as he thoughtlessly throws away the SIM card bearing the names of people closest to my heart. Most of them I only got in touch with through text messages. Losing the phone was like saying goodbye to them permanently.

A television ad says that perhaps the greatest gift this generation has received is the power to stay connected. Now, this invisible thread that connects me to the world has been cut.

Of course, I have been calling the number, hoping that I had dropped the phone accidentally and some kind persons had picked it up. A man gruffly answered, "Ano?"

I was momentarily speechless but then managed to protest: "Cell phone *ko po yan*." But before I could continue, he ended my call.

I quickly re-dialed the number, and a nice lady's voice told me: "The number you have dialed is out of coverage area. Please try your call later." I got the point.

I do not know exactly where I lost my phone or who took it away from me. All I have for now are nameless suspects whose faces I cannot remember. I have given up trying to recall everything that happened that day in the hope of coming up with a face seated next to me in the jeepney or in church. What's the use? I will never recognize him, much less find him.

When I arrived home that day, I couldn't summon the courage to tell mother what happened until she had finished eating her supper. I was a bit surprised that she took it in with understanding. She told me that if when you lose some thing, you gain something else—sometimes in abundance or on a grander scale.

If there is some truth to what she told me, I certainly would appreciate having a job in Makati or a gorgeous girlfriend. I hope the deities are all ears. The Bible says, "Ask and you shall receive." Well, I am not asking, I am begging.

My experience is nothing new to many of us. Indeed I am grateful that no one poked a gun or a knife at me inside an FX taxi just to get my phone, like what has happened so many times in various of Metro Manila. Perhaps more than the many hungry children in the streets, these incidents show the worsening conditions in our society.

To repeat, right now I am jobless, loveless and cell-phoneless. I wonder if there can be a more depressing situation than that.

I turn on the TV to catch the late night news. There is a report about a raid conducted by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, which left 34 soldiers and civilians dead and about a hundred others wounded. My question has been answered.

Alfredo O. Dimaano Jr., 21, has a bachelor's degree in statistics from Batangas State University. He says all he has now is his phone's headset and the hope that someday he can buy a new cellular phone, preferably one with a camera.

If not bribery, could it have been compassion?

LETTERS

I READ with shock your editorial on Sunday (PDI July 20, 2003) about the escape of the confessed terrorist leader and his associates. With the whole nation, I am racking my brains to understand how it could have possibly happened.

Like Sherlock Holmes we have to eliminate the alternatives. Could it have been the result of the bribing of the guards for a duplicate key? No, that would be all too obvious, the mastermind reasoned.

The clever alternative was to disable the cell door's hinges. Brilliant! No one would suspect collusion if there was just a defective cell door for some of the world's highest priority prisoners.

Perhaps, the prisoners were fake terrorists, crooks colluding with police in a scheme to have other charges dropped, earn promotions and share in the latest P10 million reward when they are triumphantly recaptured.

Another motive for allowing them to escape could have been compassion! Yes, the guards might have felt the loneliness, the hunger, and deplored the filthy subhuman conditions that the hapless terrorists suffered.

We all know the harsh conditions of Philippine jails and detention centers, including those for women and children. They are overcrowded, so lying down is by rotation. In some of the worst case scenarios, the toilets in the cells are stinking holes overflowing with human waste. The children are beaten and kicked, made to eat spoiled food off the concrete floor, doused with buckets of water.

Alas, this too has to be eliminated as a motive. Our jail guards are not noted for compassion. And these were terrorists behind murder and mayhem and had the best of jail conditions.

Could it have been, after all, bribery?

—FR. SHAY CULLEN, Preda Centre for Children's Rights, Olongapo, City

No way to treat Cory Aquino

I NORMALLY don't read Mr. Ramon Tulfo's column because of his predilection to unfairly accuse and criticize news subjects without basis. Last July 22, I was shocked when I was shown a particular heartless and cruel item he had written that day on our former president Mrs. Cory Aquino.

I believe Mrs. Aquino never said she has not forgiven her husband's assassins, only that the convicted soldiers should finally tell the truth as to who the mastermind was. She certainly cannot be faulted for not believing it was Galman who shot the late senator.

To reduce her husband's martyrdom to the level that Tulfo has dragged it is disgusting and despicable.

Mr. Tulfo owes Mrs. Aquino and the million of Filipinos, who believe in Ninoy's martyrdom and Cory's cause, an apology for this mindless tirade against her.

It's no way to treat a lady who did her duty to her country and a truly respected icon of democracy.

—SEN. PANFILO LACSON, Senate of the Philippines, Room 523, GSIS Financial Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

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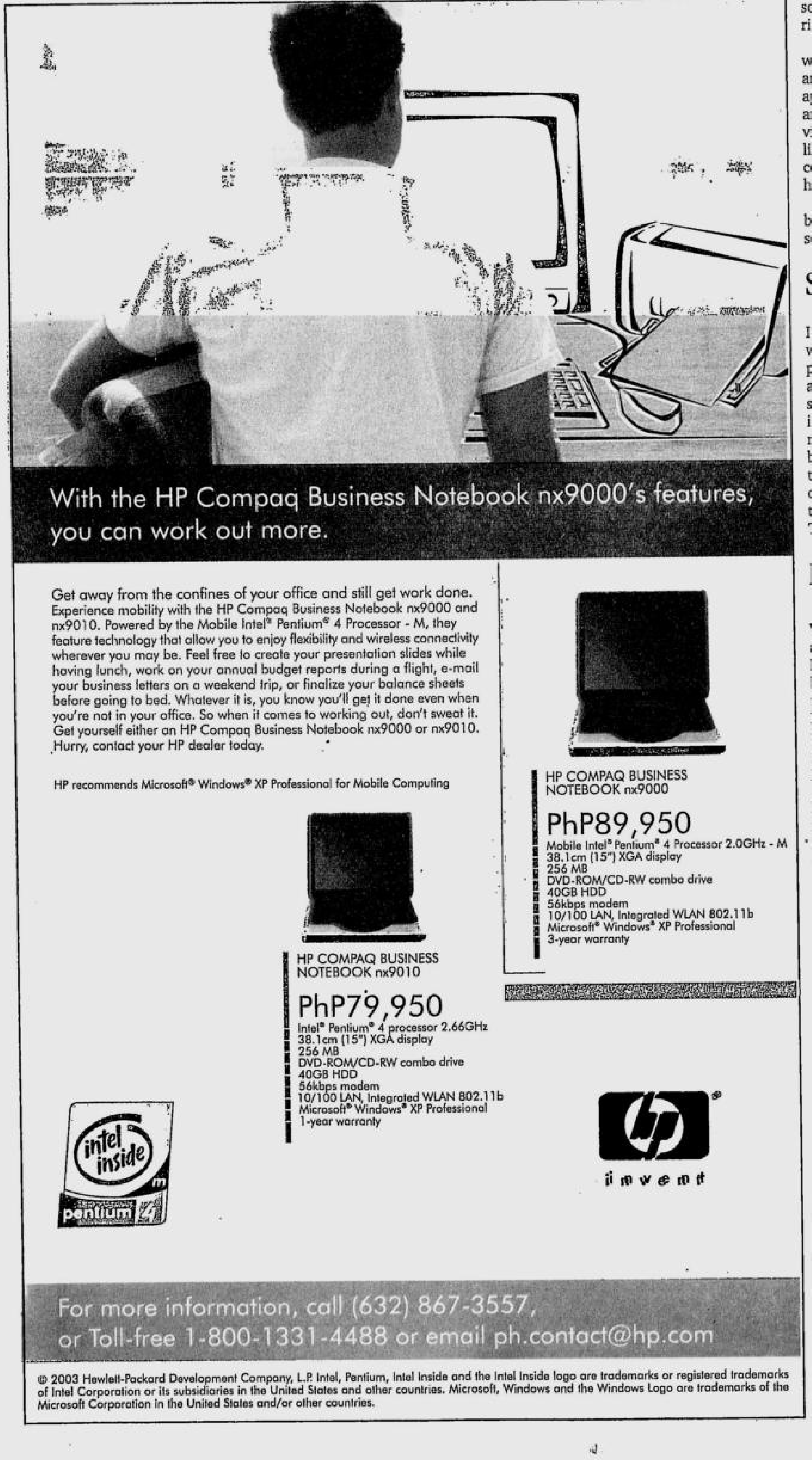
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Make Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi a separate autonomous region

THE "ROAD MAP" to peace in Mindanao is achievable and can be realized by creating a separate autonomous region out of the three island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. These three provinces are narrowly separated by sea and enjoy daily air and maritime services. Though composed of *tausug, samal, yakan, mapun* and *badjaw* tribes, tribal differences are insignificant as their population of over one million is predominantly Muslim, bound by a common culture, customs and tradition. The *tausug* dialect is common to all tribes.

From the viewpoint of political expediency, technical feasibility and administrative convenience, these three provinces are virtually tailor-made for a separate autonomous region.

Firstly, the people are supportive of this creation of a new region. Secondly, there are available technocrats from the local population to handle and manage the organizational structure of the proposed autonomous region. Thirdly, the three island provinces' geographical proximity and accessibility to each other allows for effective and expeditious delivery of services.

In contrast, the present Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), with seat in Cotabato City, is a non-contiguous territory wherein the three islands are geographically isolated by a wide expanse of the Sulu Sea and the vast territory of Zamboanga del Sur, making travel to Manila much easier than to Cotabato.

Amidst cultural and language differences, Islam is the only factor that binds most of the ARMM tribes together.

The idea, therefore, of creating Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi into a separate autonomous Muslim region should merit serious consideration as it could hold the key to the final solution to the Mindanao problem.

—HADJI AHMAD A. SALI, AL-HAJ, Busbus, Jolo, Sulu

Trees and ignorant public officials

THE INQUIRER deserves commendation for its July 15 editorial, a touching tribute to trees and a strong defense of our constitutionally guaranteed right to health and a balanced ecosystem. Kudos too, to all the other PDI writers who made a stand for the trees and the environment. It is this kind of fearless, enlightening journalism that challenges and hopefully will change wrong mindset and value systems so that this country can move forward in the right direction.

Trees are not just a luxury to be dispensed with to make way for "priority projects." They are not just lovely ornaments that increase the appeal and economic value of property, Trees are a basic necessity to living things. They provide food, shelter and medicine. They are our life line to survival—the umbilical cord that connects us to Mother Earth, feeding us with her life-giving resources.

Without trees you have a desert—a land bereft of water. According to a scientific research conducted by the UP National Institute of Geological Sciences, "lack of trees causes soil erosion that enhances the flooding of low-lying areas. Without trees, rainwater drains soil and garbage into the streams, causing siltation that clogs the waterways. Without trees, rainwater rush down...without seeping into the soil to replenish lost groundwater."

But this is what the environmentally ignorant public officials want—for floodwaters to runoff as fast as possible to the sea. They accuse the trees of hindering such run off, of causing floods that they actually prevent by absorbing the floodwaters with their roots and storing them in underground aquifers. Throwing precious fresh water into the sea, especially with water fast disappearing from our faucets, defies logic.

—ESTER V. PEREZ DE TAGLE, Founding chair, Concerned Citizens Against Pollution (COCAP), 34 Quezon St., Xavierville 3, Loyola Heights, Quezon City

So much for a Strong Republic

I WAS QUITE SURPRISED at the tepid and weak reaction of Presidential Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the bold escape of Fathur al-Ghozi and his two fellow inmates, considering its magnitude, impact and grave implications to national and regional security. This escape of a dangerous terrorist brings us back to the center stage of international scrutiny and engenders doubt on our country's ability and capability to contribute to global effort against terrorism. The famous presidential temper and "*taray*" was simply not there.

I was hoping to see an angry and indignant commander in chief at Camp Crame, ordering the arrest and restriction to quarters of the PNP Intelligence Group personnel involved and the firing on the spot of top police officers starting with Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane and Jesus Versoza.

So much for a Strong Republic.

—FERDIE T. SIBAL, 18 Green Leaves St., Capitol Green Village, Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Nobody got booted out of DepEd meeting

VIC AGUSTIN misrepresented the facts again last July 23. On Dec. 20, 2001, the Knowledge Channel made a presentation before the DepEd management committee upon the invitation of then Secretary Raul Roco. Roco was exploring ways to support the teaching of the Restructured Basic Education Curriculum through TV educational programs.

In meetings with Knowledge Channel, however, Roco insisted that its programming should follow the curriculum set by DepEd and the subject schedule of the students.

He did not want the teachers in the classrooms to be burdened with tailoring the day's lesson to what was being broadcast. Roco reiterated this point during Doris Nuval's presentation. DepEd directors expressed approval of Roco's point.

Roco did not snap at Nuval and did not order her to leave the room. Nuval finished her presentation. The minutes of the meeting bear this out.

—HILDA VILLADOLID-GONZALEZ, former chief of staff and director III, Department of Education

The misappropriation of the arts

THE ARTIST and her works are necessarily political. Nowadays, they are overtly and shamelessly politicized.

While the uproar over Anding Roces' inclusion in this year's roster of National Artist awardees is a legitimate reaction revealing the subterranean web of compromises and accommodation that permeates every crevice of the Filipino society, the critics are equally amiss on how to give substance and direction to their respective judgements.

For instance, in his effort to situate the importance of "nation" as "the Filipino people," the eminent scholar Bienvenido Lumbera fails to note that, throughout the history of the Award, no Muslim or lumad has ever won the much-coveted cultural prize. If his concept of "the Filipino people" is exclusive for Christian Filipinos closely tied to the socio-economic elite who coquettishly consume their artistic commodities, then it is very serious misappropriation.

On the other hand, the misplaced conservatism of artist Mauro Malang Santos misdirects his own objective of being "part of the solution." By arguing for a tight peer-based nomination—in his instance, for visual arts—Malang further fortifies the already impenetrable circles of artists at the expense of budding talents.

His naïve, elitist view that only the "peers" know who is qualified and who is not unveils the crooked tendency of local art personalities towards oligarch aestheticism.

His position thus highlights the deepening mutation of art acclamation and appreciation into a cultural advertisement for established local talents rather than the cultivation of flourishing potentials and of newly discovered genres.

In the end, the lovers of the Muses need not be inciters of intrigues, for the best among Art's faithful disciples are those who are not featured in the society page of newspapers, but those who silently create and re-create the fine imprints of humanity.

—ALLAN FROILAN B MENDOZA, struggling poet, Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Still no proof of Saddam-al-Qaida link

BUSH

WASHINGTON—With President George W. Bush's credibility battered over the use of flawed intelligence on Iraq's alleged nuclear program, critics have now focused on unproven links between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaida's terror network.

The Bush administration has portrayed the war on Iraq as a continuation of the war on terrorism launched after al-Qaida's Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, which killed 3,000 people.

Iraq posed an imminent threat to US security because Saddam could provide al-Qaida with the feared chemical, biological or nuclear "weapons of mass destruction," US officials said in the months leading up to the war.

On Sept. 25, 2002 Bush warned against the danger that "al-Qaida becomes an extension of Saddam's madness." National security counselor Condoleezza Rice added that there "clearly are contacts between al-Qaida and Iraq." The next day Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said there was "bulletproof evidence" of an al-Qaida-Saddam link.

It was not until Feb. 5 that Secretary of State Colin Powell clearly spelled out the US case.

Speaking at a special UN Security Council meeting, Powell said there was a training camp in northern Iraq where terrorists were learning to use chemical weapons. He added that Saddam was protecting Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi, accused of ordering the 2002 murder of Laurence Foley, a US diplomat in Jordan.

The training camp Powell mentioned was located in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq—outside Saddam's jurisdiction—and belonged to Ansar al-Islam, a radical fundamentalist Islamic group. The site was stormed by a combined force of Kurdish freedom fighters and US Special Forces in early April.

Ansar prisoners interviewed in Tawela, northern Iraq by AFP soon after the attack, insisted their group had no links to Saddam.

"I am a Kurd, all Kurds hate Saddam Hussein, he destroyed my family," said one of the prisoners. He and another survivor had been forced to join Ansar, which established rigid Islamic rules in its area. The prisoners also said they had seen no Arabs or other foreign Islamist fighters in their ranks.

US officials have yet to release evidence that the camp was used for building chemical weapons.

Meanwhile, an alleged associate of Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi standing trial in Germany has denied any connection with al-Qaida.

Shadi Mohd Mustafa Abdellah told a court in Duesseldorf, Germany on July 2 that he belonged to a group called al-Tawhid, which was "on its own and had nothing to do with al-Qaida."

The alleged terrorist, a 26-year-old Jordanian, is charged with plotting attacks against Jewish and Israeli targets in Germany.

Hundreds of pages of German police interrogations suggest the al-Tawhid organization had "its own goals and may even have been a jealous rival of al-Qaida," Newsweek magazine reported in late June. *AFP*

WMD missing in Iraq, now in Bush speeches too

DEARBORN, Mich.—Weapons of mass destruction have proven hard to find in Iraq and now they've disappeared from President George W. Bush's speeches.

A reliable staple of past addresses, the four words did not cross his lips during two public appearances in Pennsylvania and Michigan on Thursday. Nor did Bush use the phrase on Wednesday in a formal update for Americans on the progress US forces have made in Iraq that he delivered from the White House Rose Garden.

At a $2,000 apiece cocktail party in Dearborn to raise money for his reelection campaign next year, Bush came close to resurrecting it, telling 900 Republican supporters: "Free nations do not threaten the world with weapons of mass terror."

Before the US-led invasion and during the war's early stages, Bush speeches were peppered with references to weapons of mass destruction and the specter of apocalyptic havoc that chemical and biological arms might wreak on the United States, its friends and allies. He used the words so much that sometimes they became simply "WMD."

Now that Saddam Hussein has been ousted and with no conclusive evidence of WMD, the president has recently spoken more benignly of "weapons programs" and "illegal weapons," although he has said he remains confident that banned arms will be uncovered. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

'Culture of deceit' at UK gov't

BLAIR

LONDON—More than two-thirds of British voters believe a culture of deceit exists at the heart of the Britain's government, according to a poll released Friday and conducted following the presumed suicide of arms expert David Kelly. As British Prime Minister Tony Blair battles to overcome his biggest crisis since coming power in 1997 over Kelly's death, a YouGov poll in The Daily Telegraph revealed that 68 percent of respondents agreed with the statement that a culture of deceit and spin exists at the heart of the British government. The survey is the latest in a series of British polls published this week showing significant falls in voter support for Blair following Kelly's death on July 17. The BBC says the arms expert was the main source for its report in May that said Blair's office "sexed-up" a dossier on Iraq in the run-up to war against the wishes of intelligence chiefs. The row centers on a headline-grabbing claim in the September dossier that Baghdad could launch weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes. *AFP*

US-N. Korea talks could start next month

SEOUL—A senior advisor to South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said Friday he believed that the United States and North Korea would meet for a new round of multilateral talks on North Korea's nuclear crisis in August. "Even though it is hard to predict exactly when the multilateral talks will resume, I believe they will take place next month," Roh's National Security Advisor Ra Jong-yil said in an interview with Yonhap news agency. China hosted trilateral talks with the United States and North Korea in Beijing in April at which the Stalinist state issued a "bold" proposal for resolving the crisis in which it demanded a series of concessions from Washington before it would address US concerns about nuclear weapons. Beijing has recently stepped up diplomatic efforts to bring the parties together through multilateral talks. No date has officially been announced for a new round of talks. *AFP*

Sao Tome welcomes back president

SAO TOME—A newfound calm reigned in Sao Tome and Principe Thursday, a day after the president of the west African archipelago returned home and the coup leaders who had deposed him last week were granted an amnesty. Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, who had accompanied Fradique de Menezes upon his return to Sao Tome, hailed the peace deal reached late Wednesday as a "victory for Africa." De Menezes was deposed in a bloodless coup on July 16 by a group of putschists led by army major Fernando Pereira, which included a notorious band of former soldiers who served in South Africa's apartheid-era armed forces. *AFP*

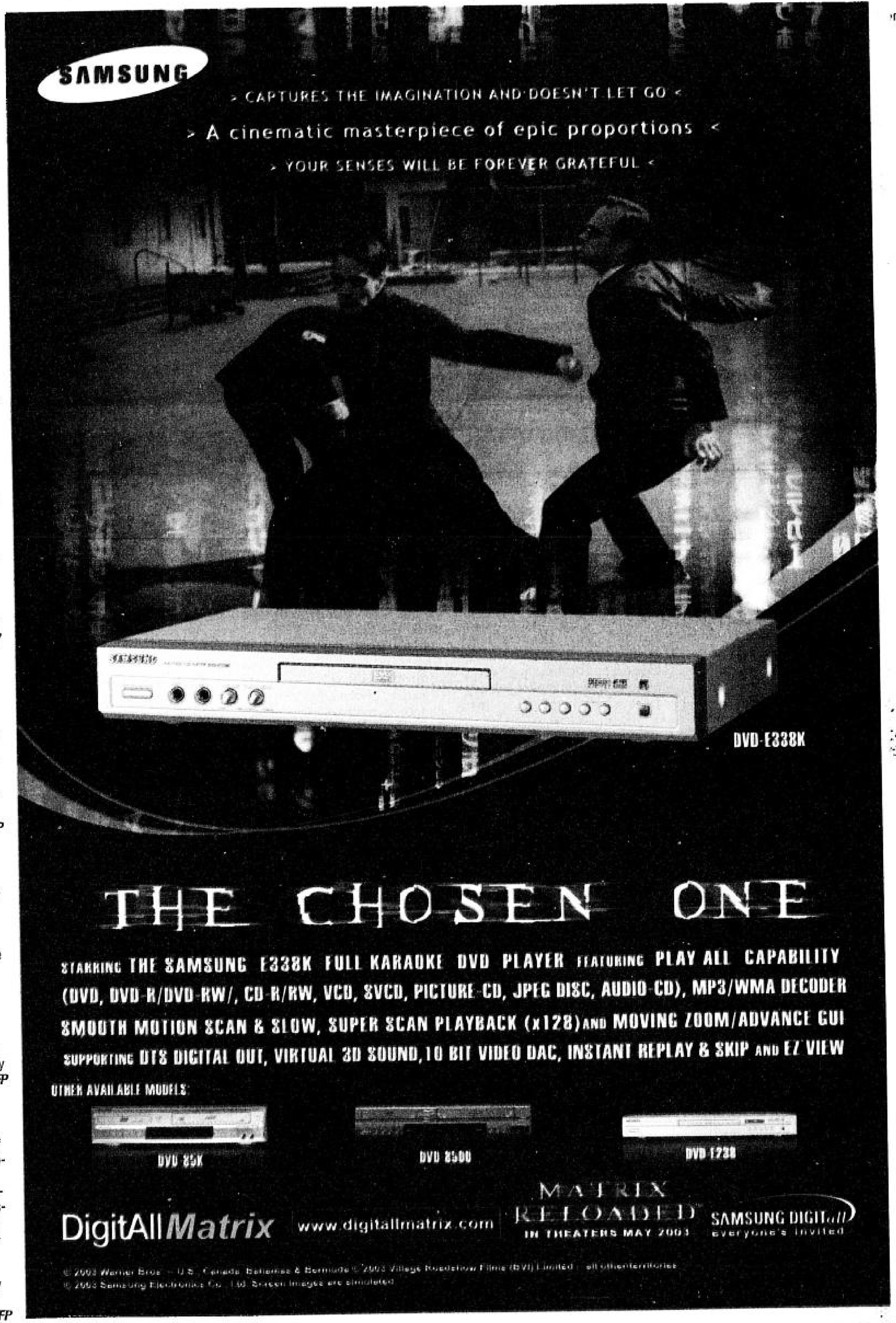
Thousands flee Monrovia in panic

TAYLOR

MONROVIA—Thousands of terrified civilians streamed out of the Liberian capital Monrovia Thursday in search of safety, food and water as fighting raged between government troops and rebels for control of three key bridges. Food shortages in the city are growing more acute, drinking water is scarce and the top UN coordinator for Liberia has warned that "one of the worst humanitarian tragedies in the region" is impending. The fighting between troops loyal to President Charles Taylor and rebel forces is concentrated on three strategic bridges—Stockton Creek Bridge linking the rebel-held port with the airport, and Johnson and Old Bridges leading to the city center. *AFP*

No to sex

KUALA LUMPUR—Women in Malaysia should be allowed to refuse sex if they know their husbands suffer from HIV, a minister said in remarks published Friday. "There have been cases of wives being forced to have sex with their husbands although they realize they run the risk of being infected with HIV," Sharizat Abdul Jalil, Women and Family Development Minister was quoted as saying by the New Straits Times newspaper. Malaysian AIDS Council president Marina Mahathir said religious leaders in mainly-Muslim Malaysia should support the proposal. "The problem is that our culture does not allow wives to say no to sex and this ought to change," she said. Sharizat said the reported number of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections among women surged 35 percent in 2002 from 2001, but gave no figures. *AFP*



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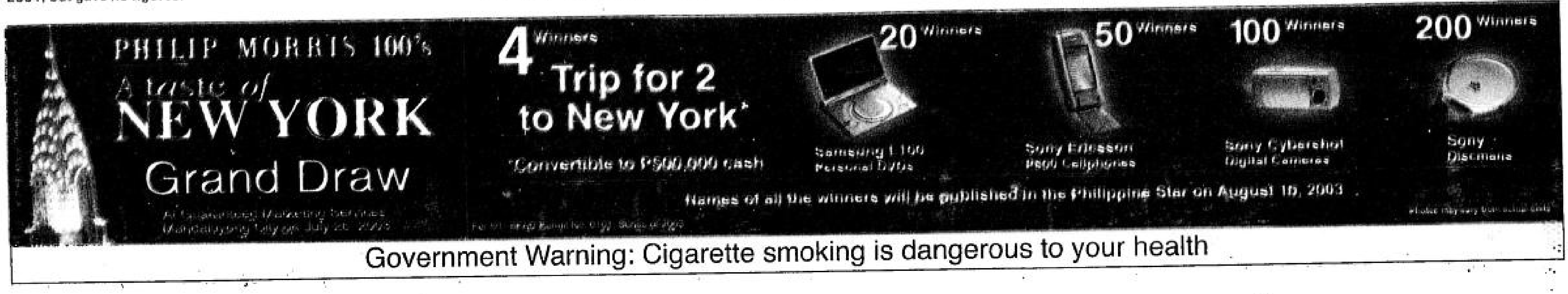

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2 customs execs, student killed in Cebu City ambush

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Kathy I. Navarro
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Two Bureau of Customs officials and a high school student were killed and two others were wounded in an ambush staged around 6 p.m. on Thursday by two unidentified suspects, on Osmeña Boulevard, a few feet away from the Police Regional Office-Central Visayas (PRO-7) headquarters.

Killed were Cebu Customs deputy collector for operations Eduardo "Wewe" Lao, 42; Customs appraiser Bennet Soreno; and Allan Ravina, 16; and a graduating student at the Abellana National High School.

Wounded were jeepney driver Nestor Ancajas and Lao's driver Samuel Dijan.

An initial police report showed that two armed men, who were wearing motorcycle helmets, opened fire at the Isuzu Trooper of Lao, hitting the customs official and his driver, around 6 p.m.

A stray bullet hit Ravina, who was outside the ANS gates located across the street of the ambush site.

Two bystanders and a teacher brought him to the Cebu City Medical Center, where he died about 45 minutes later.

Lao was on his way home to Barangay Guadalupe, when his Trooper was caught in the stoplight at the intersection of R. R. Landon Street and Osmeña Boulevard.

Two men armed with 9 mm and .45 cal. pistols opened fire at the vehicle. The burst of gunfire prompted the two vehicles in front of the Trooper to speed off.

Dijan immediately sped off, but the suspects chased the vehicle on foot while firing their guns.

Witnesses said the suspects stopped at the corner of Camp Sergio Osmena, PRO-7 headquarters, and walked to their motorcycle, which was parked on R.R. Landon Street, and sped off.

Stray bullets grazed Ancajas's head as he was driving a passenger jeepney in front of the Trooper. He was brought to the hospital and was released yesterday.

Dijan drove the Trooper to Chong Hua Hospital, where Lao and Soreno died later. Dijan was still confined at the hospital but was declared out of danger.

Personnel at the police crime laboratory had counted 36 bullet holes on the Trooper. Recovered from the crime scene were four deformed slugs and several empty shells of 9 mm bullets.

Normando Panilag, ANS math teacher, said he and several bystanders thought that it was a re-enactment of a crime because it took the police about 15 minutes to come out of the camp.

When they did, he said, the policemen first picked up empty shells, before they started asking what happened.

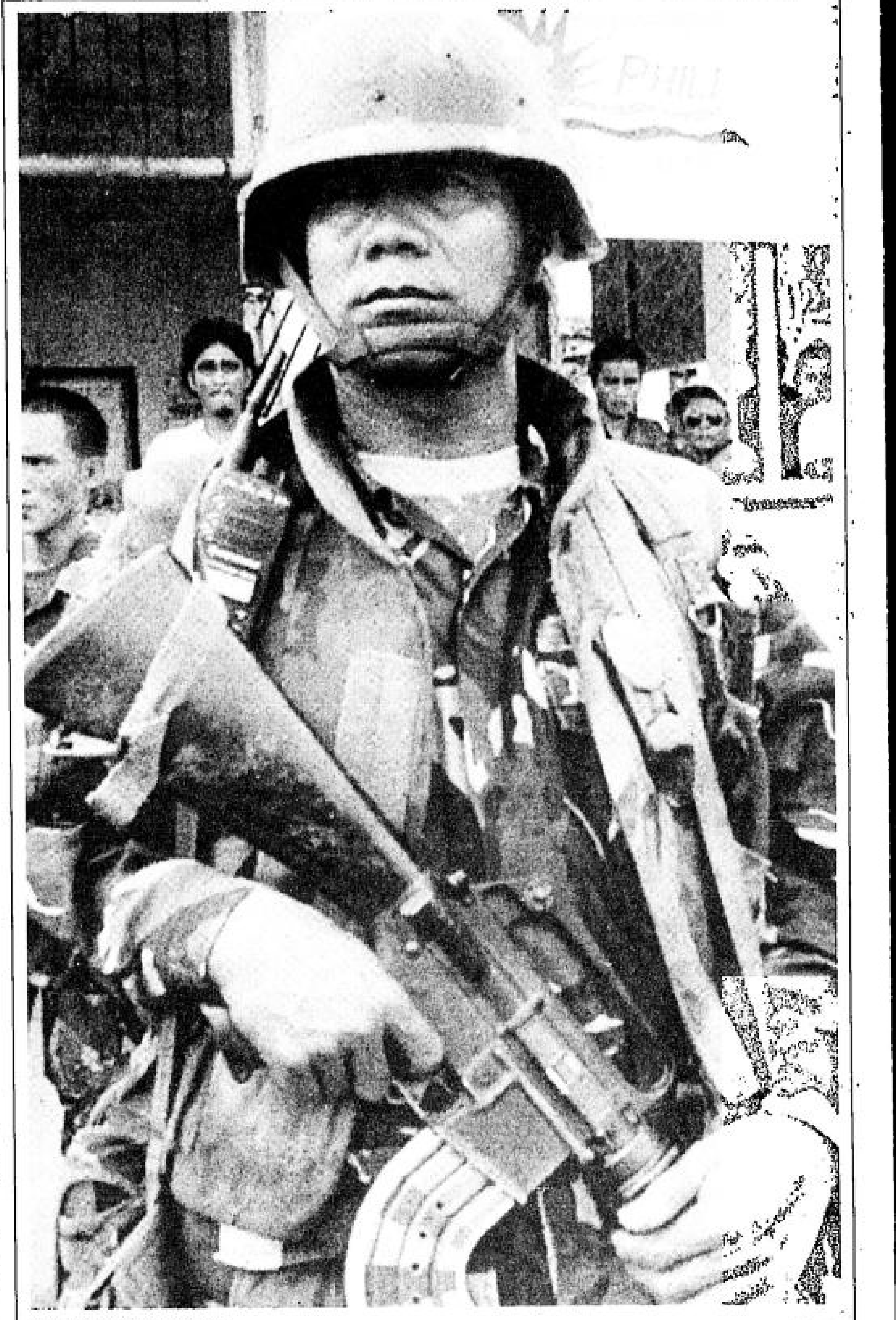
A female teacher said she saw that the policemen hid behind the gate of the camp during the firing.

Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay and Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, PRO-7 director, were meeting with local police officials inside the camp when the ambush occurred.

Delfin, however, claimed that some plainclothes policemen immediately responded but failed to fire at the suspects because there were people in the area.

One of the angles being looked into by authorities was the possible involvement of rice smugglers, following reports that Lao had been receiving death threats.

Delfin said an unidentified person had asked Lao to stop the confiscation of smuggled rice. He, however, could not specify how these threats were sent to the customs official.



TERROR WATCH

REUTERS

The Lamitan, Basilan port appeared to be heavily guarded July 22 during an anti-terrorism demonstration. Ports around the country have been put in tight security following the escape of terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi from a police prison.

Police say gov't gaining ground vs drug gangs

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Police claim to have broken up at least four illegal drug syndicates here as a result of a stepped up campaign against the drug trade.

Edgardo Aglipay, PNP Deputy Director General, identified the four groups as the Tawi-Tawi-based Bakil Ayug gang, the Lingayen Group based in this city and the Kuratong Baleleng affiliates, Bana and Alceles groups based in Zamboanga del Sur.

Aglipay did not specify when the groups were "neutralized" but said pieces of evidence have also been seized from them.

These included three speedboats, a cal. 50 machine gun, an M-16 rifle, handheld radios and an unspecified amount of shabu from the Ayug gang.

Aglipay said the Lingayen group's leader, his wife and members had been arrested and are now behind bars at the San Ramon Prison and Penal Farm.

"The President's target is for the PNP to neutralize one third of the drug personalities, clear one third of the barangay and be part of the prevention and care program of the government," he said.

As this developed, the police's efforts to weed out scalawags in uniform have been paying off according to Aglipay.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered police to step up the campaign against illegal drugs and drug syndicates. *Rolly A. San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

US foundation gives P35M to Vizcaya village schools

By Ben Moses Ebreo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The Ford Foundation has granted the provincial government P35 million in a bid to improve the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of children and upgrade the teaching capabilities of day care teachers in Nueva Vizcaya's upland villages.

The fund, according to Ford Foundation officials, will be used to support the reading proficiency program for elementary students and the organization of day care and kindergarten classes in remote villages.

Last month, 25,000 copies of books were distributed to various day care centers under the early childhood education, kindergarten and basic education programs of the provincial government through the Ford Foundation.

The books consist of 12,500 copies of "Getting Ready to Learn" (Level 1 and Part I) and 12,500 copies of Level 1 and Part II of the same book.

These are classified into textbooks, workbooks and teachers' manual. The workbooks are given to the students for free while the textbooks will be used by every batch of students each year.

The workbooks will be used by children during their writing, drawing and coloring exercises, while the teacher's manual serves as the common guidebook of day care teachers in planning their lessons.

Started in 2001, the project, called "Project Jumpstart," also aims to improve the teaching capabilities of day care workers.

"Day care teachers really need to improve their teaching competency and capability because they are mostly high school and college undergraduates. A few are high school and college graduates and they have no formal teacher's training," said Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani.

Agbayani said most of the upland children in the province are inferior compared with their lowland counterparts because of teachers' lack of training and education.

To address their needs, the provincial government conducted the "Summer Institute for Early Childhood Workers" in 2001 and 2002 for 311 day care workers to standardize their level of skills and competency.

Floods force Comelec to stop Maguindanao list-up

COTABATO CITY—Waist-deep floodwaters marred yesterday's opening of the general registration of voters in Maguindanao, forcing the Commission on Elections to cancel the list-up in at least 40 villages.

"But when water totally subsides, the Comelec will start accommodating the registrants," Clarita Callar, Comelec 12 regional director, said.

Earlier, Commissioner Luz Tancangco, accompanied by military and police officials, toured around the province to personally check the situation of low-lying villages.

Callar said registration in several barangays of Kabuntalan, a town sitting at the heart of the Liguasan Marsh, was temporarily put on hold due to waist-deep floodwaters.

Eighteen of Maguindanao's 26 municipalities have been under water for a week now, displacing some 200,000 persons.

The list-up was called, after the Comelec decided to set aside the old voters' list in Maguindanao and other provinces of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

The registration, aided by about 324 data capturing machines in Maguindanao alone, was aimed at weeding out double registrants and was designed to update the poll body's database for the region.

Torrential rains because of the two typhoons that recently hit the country triggered the flooding in Maguindanao.

While the floods were delaying the voters' registration in Maguindanao, farmers in nearby provinces had suffered massive losses in terms of potential harvest.

The Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) in Central Mindanao had estimated that damage to crops could go up to at least P40 million.

Minda Morante, OCD-12 regional director, said that North Cotabato suffered the brunt of the two weather disturbances with at least 10 towns directly hit by flash floods that claimed the life of a farmer.

She said about 24,291 families or 120,121 persons in North Cotabato's 72 villages; some of which are upland barangays, were affected by the tail end of typhoons "Gilas" and "Harurot." *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROW SETTLED

The political feud that led to court cases finally ends in Puerto Princesa as Lucilo Bayron (with right arm raised) takes his oath as vice mayor of the city.

Calamity state declared in 3 areas in North

ILAGAN, Isabela—Officials of Cagayan, Isabela, Qurino and Kalinga have placed their respective provinces under a state of calamity following the devastation brought about by super typhoon "Harurot."

The declaration allowed the provincial governments to use their calamity funds to finance rehabilitation efforts.

The provincial government of Isabela, one of the top rice- and corn-producing provinces in Luzon, has allocated P60 million to subsidize the replanting needs of farmers affected by the typhoon.

The provincial board of Cagayan has appropriated at least P7.5 million to rehabilitate farms and extend assistance to farmers.

The province lost more than P253 million worth of corn and P56 million worth of rice to the typhoon.

Officials of Quirino have released P216,000 to affected farmers and are readying another P2 million for rehabilitation efforts.

Power and communication lines in most parts of Cagayan Valley have yet to be fully restored.

Kalinga Gov. Macario Dugiang said the typhoon damaged P122 million worth of crops and infrastructure in their province. *Villamor Visaya Jr., Estanislao Caldez and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mindanao journalists seek guns as shields

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—How should journalists hedge the threat to their lives?

Possessing firearms was suggested as the most viable measure when journalists from all over Mindanao flocked to this town on Wednesday.

The journalists' discussions were part of a series of media dialogues organized by the Center for Community Journalism and Development (CCJD) since June this year.

Journalists from Pagadian City, home of slain radio commentator and newspaper columnist Edgar Damalerio, had endorsed the suggestion to bear arms vigorously.

The arming of journalists became the most ticklish issue that cropped up during the dialogue.

The one-day media dialogue unfolds amid the ongoing search for justice for Damalerio's death.

Damalerio was gunned down near the Pagadian City police headquarters on May 13, 2002.

The suspect, PO1 Guillermo Wapile, had escaped from police custody, moments after learning a warrant for his arrest was forthcoming. He remains at large.

While acknowledging that possessing firearms lessens vulnerability to attack, Merpu Roa, executive director of the Mindanao Institute of Journalism (Minjourn), said it does not necessarily translate to a safer environment for journalists.

"Our greatest strength might lie in our being vulnerable," he said.

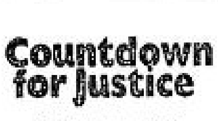
Red Batario, CCJD executive director, shared Roa's contention.

Batario noted that a number of journalists murdered during the past 17 years were carrying with them firearms when they were killed.

Meanwhile, Batario said that work-related tension is particularly high for provincial journalists, especially those in regions with warring political dynasties.

Journalists in these areas are more open to attacks than their colleagues in other areas. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT IS exactly 439 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

INQUIRER Visayas
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Remembering Bishop Fortich

LUCID INTERVAL

Rowena V. Guanzon

BISHOP Emeritus Antonio Y. Fortich of Bacolod, the defender of the poor, our spiritual leader, hero, father and friend, is gone, but he left us with more than just memories.

While alive, he was the conscience of Negros. He died leaving an extraordinary standard of service and way of life for church leaders and a vision for Negros and the country.

In a province that has a reputation for the extravagance of the rich while their sugar workers remain poor and uneducated, Bishop Fortich stood up for the poor. Yet, with few exceptions, he managed to maintain a balance and had many friends and flock among the rich.

He knew exactly for whom he served and why he had to do the things he had to do. He defended his priests and the poor people, when they were persecuted by the military and right-wing landowners, during and after martial law. When Fr. Brian Gore and eight others were falsely charged and tried for the murder of Kabankalan mayor Pablo Sola, the bishop attended nearly 50 hearings.

Even during former President Corazon Aquino's term, Bishop Fortich continued to advocate land reform. No other Church leader has done as much, and although he never sought credit for his service and convictions, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

'Maong' factory

When he started as a bishop in 1966, Fortich was traditional. He tried to help the *sacada* or migrant workers by putting up a *maong* (denim) factory for them and helping them get fair wages. Till his death, migrant workers never got a decent quality of life.

But he realized later that what are needed are structural reforms. After many years in Negros, it became clear to Bishop Fortich that the rich had no problem with the virtue of charity, but they had a big problem with the virtue of justice. The rich can be charitable so long as their economic status and political power are not threatened.

That is why some rich and powerful people, who opposed land reform, couldn't sleep well with Fortich on the rise, so they discredited him, and he didn't have a chance at winning a Nobel Peace Prize. Had he won, it would have been a worldwide affirmation that Fortich was right and they were wrong.

Yet, the bishop never had ill will against those who disliked him. When the Pope visited Negros and spoke about the plight of the poor, former Congressman Armando Gustilo of Cadiz City, head of the largest sugar planters' association, shouted invectives at Bishop Fortich over the phone. But when Gustilo died, Fortich said Mass for him.

When landowners, who accused Fortich as a communist coddler, instigated some priests to go against him in 1989 with the backing of the military, the bishop said Mass for them, while they barricaded the entrance and exit to his residence.

My personal and political ties with Bishop Fortich began even before I knew him in my adult life. My father, retired Judge Sixto Guanzon, was a director of Dacongcogon Sugar Mill, the only cooperative sugar mill in the country, which Bishop Fortich founded.

When my cousin-in-law Ed Tejada, the first president of the National Federation of Sugarcane Workers, was arrested by the military during martial law, the bishop was there. While Ed was being interrogated by the dreaded Military Intelligence Group, Bishop Fortich sat outside the door to make sure Ed would not be tortured.

Mentor

In 1986, after we campaigned for Cory, Bishop Fortich talked to the former President and vouched for my integrity. Thereafter, I was appointed officer in charge/mayor of Cadiz. In 1988, I told him that maybe my sister Frances should run for mayor, but he said that I should run because those were trying times, and Armin Gustilo was still around. The bishop thought that my temperament and sometimes reckless courage were useful assets during that time. In my almost seven years on the job, Bishop Fortich was not only my political adviser, he was like a grandfather to me and it was from him that I learned many insights on governance.

In making decisions as mayor, I always followed Bishop Fortich's adherence to the principle of preferential option for the poor, and that kept me on the right track. Although I have my own political view that the Church is a patriarchal one, on the personal level, I was very comfortable with Bishop Fortich and with the priests who are of the same mind.

When I gave a seminar two weeks ago, I remembered what Bishop Fortich said: "There can be no peace if there is no justice."

It's a long and lonely road, this journey to justice. But Bishop Fortich never complained, and neither can we.

Environmentalist midwife gets award

By Jo Clemente, *Ajuy, Iloilo*

SUSAN Dignadice, 44, is no different from other barangay midwives. Like them, she handles a major barangay and manages its health center, as well as three to four smaller ones they call catchment areas.

She, too, is mandated to undertake the multifaceted health programs of the Department of Health and special projects of the town of Ajuy, one of the northern coastal areas of Iloilo.

Recently though, Dignadice went a cut above the rest, when she was awarded as one of the 10 most outstanding midwives of the Philippines by the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines and Johnson & Johnson during their 9th annual search.

She distinguished herself as an environmentalist midwife, owing to the extra values she poured in her work. Asked what merited such distinction, Dignadice points to two major endeavors: her community nutrition and clean and green projects, both of which involved backyard vegetable gardening.

Contributions

Her biggest contribution, she said, was motivating people to plant root crops and vegetables.

The other, she said, was the support she and her network of health workers had given to the mangrove reforestation project in Barangay Mangorocoro, one of three project sites of the Save the Children Foundation under its People and Environment Co-Existence Development Project (Pescodev), a community-based integrated program for coastal resource management and family planning and health care services.

Dignadice said her support was as comprehensive as the project itself. "As a family planning project linked to the environment, we have been part of the process from the moment the barangay residents made an assessment of their coastal resources to the time when they went to replant the mangroves."

But what makes Dignadice special is how she was able to rise above her personal circumstances to be what she is today.

Married in the last 23 years, she has spent half of the time raising her children alone. Two days before this interview, she and her four children welcomed back into their home Eliseo, her 44-year-old husband, who served time in prison for 12 years after being implicated in a murder case. Eliseo was then the barangay chair of his area.

The forced separation literally broke the couple apart as the husband served time at the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa, while she worked in Iloilo. While visits were not as frequent, Dignadice said she saw to it that communication between her husband and their family continued.

When Eliseo left, she was pregnant with their fourth child. Their eldest daughter Kenneth, then 10, is now 22 and a graduate of political science.

Grateful to community

Dignadice is thankful to the community where she works because having a husband in prison did not diminish the people's trust and confidence in her.

She worked hard to sustain herself and her family. Income came from her work as barangay midwife and the ornamental plants and cut flowers she grew.

While sending her children to school, she also found time to retool herself and further her academic competence.

A graduate of a two-year midwifery course, Dignadice spent some of her off-work hours in school to complete a Bachelor's Degree in Community Health. She also enrolled in the graduate program also for community health.

Recently though, she took a leave from school work to concentrate on her revitalized family.

With her big heart and strength, Dignadice practically runs the health programs in the municipality of Ajuy, including several special projects. She trains barangay health workers, volunteers and the like, while handling the concerns of her big barangay and her catchment areas.

As good things will never go unrewarded, Dignadice earned her reward recently, which, she said, was especially meaningful since it came from her own professional group.

To her barangay, though, she is maybe one in a million.

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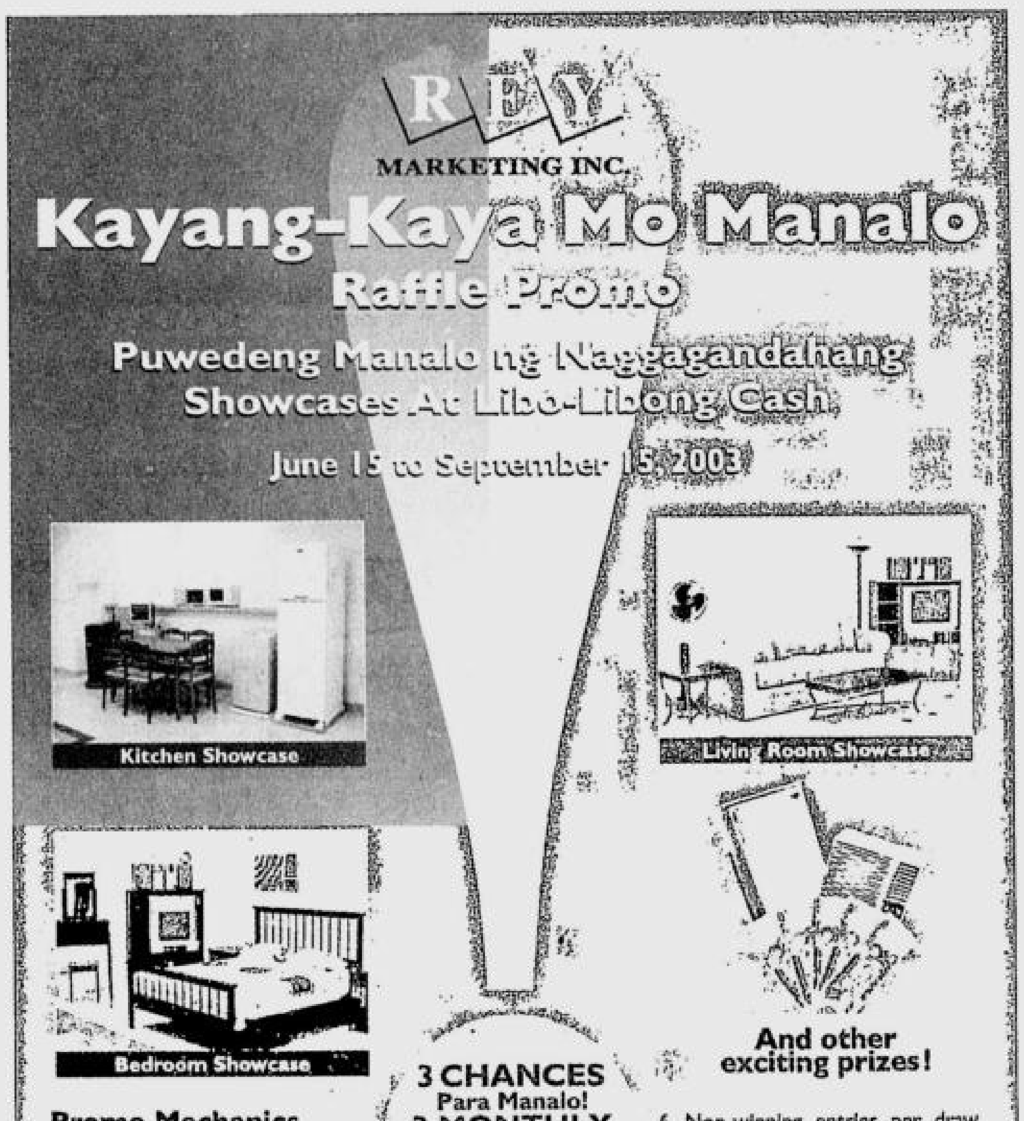

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1. A customer is entitled to 1 raffle ticket for every P500 worth of purchase (single receipt or accumulated) in any Rey Marketing, Ceramics Plus and Homewise branches from June 15 to Sept. 15, 2003.

2. The customer shall legibly fill out the raffle coupon with his complete name, address, phone number and affix signature. Invoice number and name of branch where the items were bought are to be filled by an authorized representative of Rey Marketing, Ceramic Plus and Homewise. Drop it at the drop box located inside the store.

3. Deadlines for submission of entries are as follows:
- July 15, 1st Monthly Draw
- August 15, 2nd Monthly Draw
- Sept. 15, 3rd Monthly Draw

4. Winners shall be drawn at the REY MARKETING Pasig Showroom, C. Raymundo Avenue, Rosario, Pasig City at exactly 2 p.m. in the presence of a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) representative. Draw dates as follows:
- July 30, 1st Monthly Draw
- August 30, 2nd Monthly Draw
- Sept. 30, 3rd Monthly Draw

5. Prizes that will be given away for each monthly draw are as follows:
Major Prize: One (1) Bedroom Showcase (1st Monthly Draw), One (1) Living Room Showcase (2nd Monthly Draw), One (1) Kitchen Showcase (3rd Monthly Draw)
Consolation Prizes:
- Two (2) units Kelvinator Air Conditioner
- Five (5) units Sharp Refrigerator
- Ten (10) Five Thousand Pesos Cash

6. Non-winning entries per draw will be qualified for the succeeding draws.

7. The decision of REY MARKETING with the approval of DTI is final.

8. Prizes are non-transferable and non-convertible to cash.

9. A winner can only win once during the entire promo period. In case a name is drawn more than once in each draw, the winner gets the higher prize.

10. Winners will be notified through registered mail.

11. Winners can claim their prizes at the REY MARKETING, C. Raymundo Avenue, Rosario, Pasig City. Winners must present the registered mail, one (1) valid ID, claim stub and sales invoice.

12. The names, addresses and pictures of the winners will be published in a leading newspaper.

13. All prizes exceeding P10,000.00 are tax free.

14. Shipping cost for winners outside Metro Manila will be shouldered by the winners.

15. Prizes unclaimed within 60 days from the receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of REY MARKETING with prior approval of DTI.

16. Employees of REY MARKETING, Inc., its affiliates and all its suppliers, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promo.

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US Congress report indicts CIA, FBI for inaction

From page A1

lent snapshot, (but) it's not a full anatomy," he said of the report.

Top secret pages

Many of the puzzles involved the role of Saudi Arabia.

For reasons of national security, the White House blacked out the entire section of the report entitled "Finding, discussion and narrative regarding certain sensitive national security matters."

The Saudi ambassador to the United States angrily denied any government ties to the hijackers. Prince Bandar bin Sultan also said his country was supporting efforts against Osama bin Laden's organization.

"In the report, 28 blanked-out pages are being used by some to malign our country and our people," Bandar said in a statement.

"Saudi Arabia has nothing to hide. We can deal with questions in public, but we cannot respond to blank pages."

The Agence France Presse was able to confirm through various sources close to the investigation that the top-secret pages are for the most part about the Saudi policy of supporting fundamentalism in the absence of repressing al-Qaida's terror network despite US alerts to Riyadh since 1996.

The report confirms press revelations suggesting that Omar al-Bayoumi, an associate of two of the hijackers, could have been a Saudi government agent. The report details his ties with Sept. 11 suicide attackers Khaled al-Mihdar and Nawaf al-Hazmi.

In January 2000, Al-Bayoumi entered the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles. Upon leaving, he headed directly to a restaurant where he met with the two future attackers, a meeting one FBI agent said "may not have been accidental."

The two men had just arrived from Malaysia, where they had participated in a meeting with al-Qaida officials under surveillance of Malaysian officials at the behest of the CIA.

Al-Bayoumi then helped the men rent an apartment in San Diego, paying the first month's rent and the security deposit.

The US News and World Report magazine reported in November that the owner of the apartment, Abdussatar Shaikh, 68, was an FBI informant, a leader of the Muslim community in San Diego. The FBI refused to allow the commission to question him, according to the report.

The congressional report said: "(Since Sept. 11) the FBI has learned that Al-Bayoumi has connections to terrorist elements."

"Despite the fact that he was a student, Al-Bayoumi had access to seemingly unlimited funding from Saudi Arabia. For example, an FBI source identified Al-Bayoumi as the person who delivered $400,000 from Saudi Arabia for the Kurdish mosque in San Diego.

"One of the FBI's best sources in San Diego informed the FBI that he thought that Al-Bayoumi must be an intelligence officer for Saudi Arabia or another foreign power."

"The report shows the significant role played by Saudi government agents in the preparations (for the attacks) which benefited from the royal financial generosity," said Jean-Charles Brisard, attorney for the victims' families.

"It would be inconceivable for the US government to refuse the victims' families the right to the whole and complete truth," he said.

15 of 19 hijackers Saudi

The report also says there is some evidence of "foreign support for some of the Sept. 11 hijackers while they were in the United States," but the pages of the report that identifies the sources have not been declassified.

Some officials involved in the inquiry said they pushed for additional declassification, but the Bush administration refused.

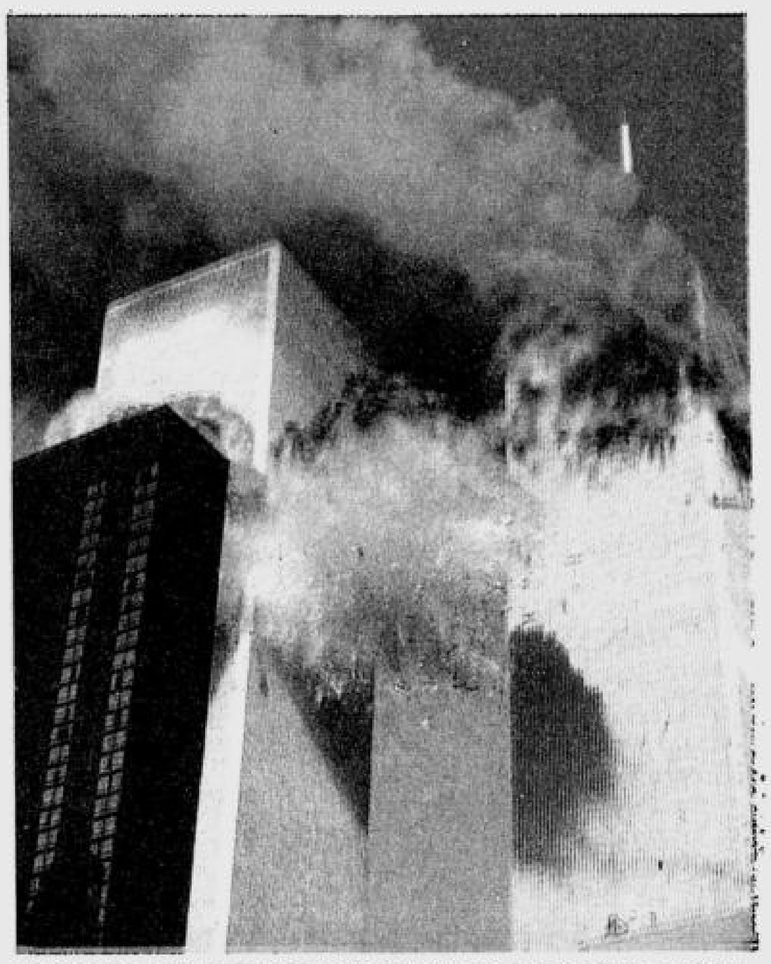
"I remain deeply disturbed by the amount of material that has been censored from this report," Graham said.

Goss said he thought the report was properly redacted but that more information should properly be released later.

Fifteen of the 19 hijackers were Saudi, leading some in the United States to complain the kingdom was a stronghold for extremists tied to al-Qaida. The kingdom also faces complaints that some Saudis gave money to charities that helped finance Bin Laden's group.

The FBI's failure to capitalize on an informant who knew two of the Sept. 11 hijackers stymied the best chance to unravel the 2001 attack plot, the report said.

"What is clear ... is that the informant's contacts with the hijackers, had they been capitalized on, would have given the San Diego FBI field office perhaps the intelligence community's best chance to unravel the Sept. 11 plot," the report said. *AFP, Reuters, AP*



THE UNFORGETTABLE sight of an unforgettable day that was Sept. 11, 2001: The burning inferno that was the World Trade Center in New York City.

AP FILE PHOTO

'Why is there no dancing in the streets for five government victories?'

From page A1

Nicolas, Evelyn Kilayko, Dan Songco and Ric Samaniego.

The victories, according to the umbrella organization of some 18 civil society groups including Bayan Muna, Konsensyang Pilipino and a number of peasant groups, are the decisions of the Sandiganbayan on the coconut levy funds, of the Supreme Court on the Marcos Swiss deposits, of the Senate upholding a constitutional convention as the mode to amend the Charter, and of the Commission on Elections to push through with the computerization of elections; and the progress in the government's "lifestyle check" campaign.

Villegas was specifically referring to the landmark rulings of the Sandiganbayan that the coconut levy funds, now P130 billion, were public in nature and belonged to the coconut farmers who were heavily taxed during the Marcos regime, and of the Supreme Court that paved the way for the unfreezing of the $38-million Marcos Swiss deposits held in escrow by the Philippine National Bank.

Noting the people's "guarded joy" over these decisions, Villegas said: "Why is there no dancing in the streets ... for these recovered fortunes?"

He said this indicated that the people had "deemed it wiser not to put their faith in decisions that can as easily be thwarted by some manipulations, political or otherwise."

In attendance

The President attended the late afternoon Mass in the company of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo. She left immediately afterwards.

The K12.30 Movement had expected around 1,500 farmers to attend the Mass, but with the heavy downpour, the shrine was barely full.

Villegas, auxiliary bishop of Manila and spokesperson of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, said the two court decisions were victories in the "long and bruising fight" against corruption.

"We celebrate today our victories against corruption," he said. "But these are really victories for our suffering poor. It is our hope that the government will make good its promise of using these funds to help our poor people—the farmers, the victims of repression and oppression, the marginalized."

Villegas also urged the government "to work more, to be more resolute and determined, to be more bold and daring" in its fight against corruption.

He added: "Let us not allow that our children should even think that corruption has its rewards. Our lives must always bear to the truth that not a single good could come out of corruption."

Half-won war

Soc Banzuela of the Coalition for Federal Philippines, a member of the K1230 Movement, said the Mass was also a "call for greater vigilance."

"The war is half-won. But every step we celebrate our victories," he said after the Mass.

Samaniego said the K1230 Movement wanted to do its share in ensuring that the President's programs for the rest of her term would succeed. He noted that not all of her promises had been fulfilled.

The K1230 Movement engages various Cabinet secretaries in a dialogue once a month to monitor their programs, Samaniego said.

He said most of the members were with Kompil, the civil-society alliance that was very active in the impeachment of then President Joseph Estrada.

Kompil has folded up because it has outlived its purpose, he added.

Reacting to Villegas' point that the people's celebration over the "victories" was "guarded," Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said she understood civil society's concerns.

"It could be that people have not found the capacity to enjoy their victory," said Soliman, a former activist. "The reason we came here really is to celebrate the justice won by the long struggle of the people, and there are people in government now who are willing to make sure they get that justice."

Soliman also said the President was committed to making sure that Marcos human rights victims were compensated out of the recovered Marcos money.

Blessings

At the end of the Mass, Villegas made two blessings—first to the members of the K1230 Movement and the coconut farmers and human rights victims who were present, and second to the President.

Villegas, who said he was acting on behalf of Cardinal Sin, lauded the civil society groups for their vigilance.

To the President he said, "In all your dreams for the country, the Church will always be there to support you," then asked the assembly for a round of applause.

Among the other government officials present were Secretaries Cito Lorenzo (agriculture), Emilia Boncodin (budget), and Roberto Pagdanganan (agrarian reform); Teresita Deles of the National Anti-Poverty Commission; and two of Ms Macapagal's advisers, Marita Jimenez and Conrado Limcaoco.

William Dichoso, Vyva Aguirre and Ruben Carranza of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the agency tasked to go after the Marcoses' alleged ill-gotten wealth, also attended the Mass.

About 1,000 coconut farmers and human rights victims mostly from Quezon province were likewise present.

After the Mass they joined a picket in front of the San Miguel Corp. office at the Ortigas Center.

'Grandmother' of shabu labs busted

From page A1

much as 30-40 kilos daily of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), supposedly worth around P60 million.

According to Philippine National Police Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, it is possible that the "state-of-the-art" drug laboratory—probably the biggest uncovered by police since 1997—had also been exporting shabu to other Southeast Asian countries.

Dy, 41, was arrested at around 3 a.m. yesterday at the Bayview Park Hotel on Roxas Boulevard in Manila, said CIDG Director Eduardo Matillano. During interrogation, he admitted maintaining a drug factory in Cavite.

Five other Chinese nationals—identified as Li Tian Wah, Yao Shiao Mei, Li Huo Long, Sy Suan Hong, and Wang Li Na—were also arrested.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina reportedly ordered the relief of Chief Insp. Odie Madrideo as head of the Tanza police, for not knowing that such a big shabu factory was operating under his nose.

But Caringal was quick to deny this, saying that Madrideo had only been ordered to explain.

"I expect he has a good explanation for this," Caringal said.

Police raided a clandestine drug laboratory in Silang, also in Cavite, two weeks ago.

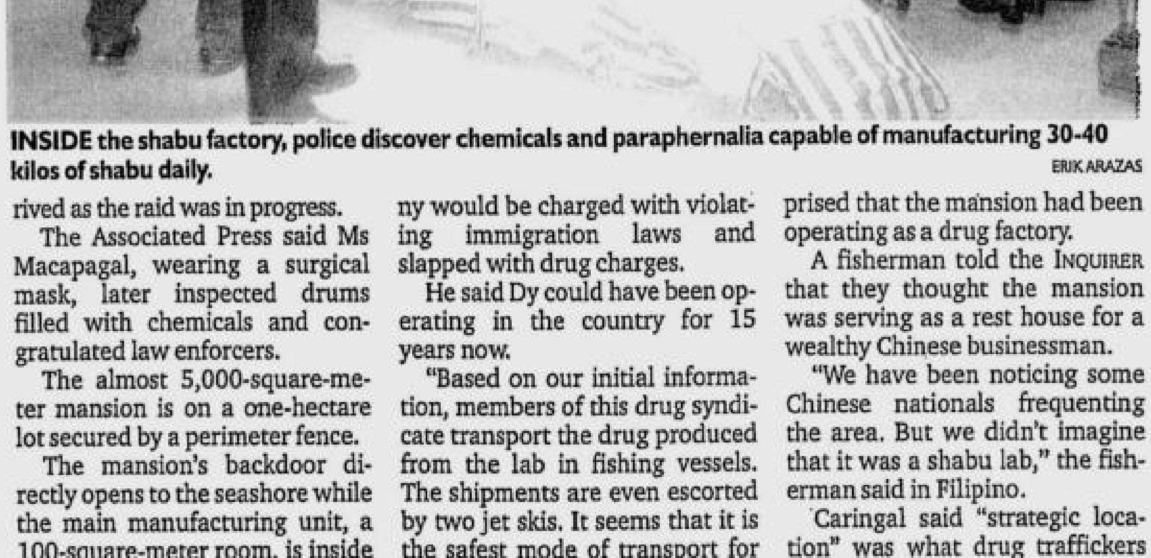
The raid in Silang caused a "domino effect" in uncovering three more drug factories in Parañaque, Las Piñas and Cubao, officials said.

Overnight stakeout

According to Caringal, agents of the PNP and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency had surrounded the seaside mansion as early as Thursday night.

But they had to wait for a search warrant and Lina's arrival before they stormed in at around 11 a.m. The warrant was issued by Judge Aurelio Tolentino of the Trece Martires Regional Trial Court.

President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived as the raid was in progress.



INSIDE the shabu factory, police discover chemicals and paraphernalia capable of manufacturing 30-40 kilos of shabu daily.

ERIK ARAZAS

The Associated Press said Ms Macapagal, wearing a surgical mask, later inspected drums filled with chemicals and congratulated law enforcers.

The almost 5,000-square-meter mansion is on a one-hectare lot secured by a perimeter fence.

The mansion's backdoor directly opens to the seashore while the main manufacturing unit, a 100-square-meter room, is inside one of the 10 bedrooms.

Drug-making equipment and chemicals such as ephedrine and iodine, as well as an undetermined volume of shabu, were found in the mansion.

Police also seized a yacht, a speedboat, and two jet skis.

AP quoted officials as saying that Capipisa residents tipped off the police after they noticed speedboats going in and out of what was once a beach resort.

Residents said the new owners of the property also raised the walls enclosing the compound and sealed the porches with steel barricades.

Aglipay, who is also chief of the Presidential Task Force against Illegal Drugs, said Dy and company would be charged with violating immigration laws and slapped with drug charges.

He said Dy could have been operating in the country for 15 years now.

"Based on our initial information, members of this drug syndicate transport the drug produced from the lab in fishing vessels. The shipments are even escorted by two jet skis. It seems that it is the safest mode of transport for them. This is a big blow to drug syndicates," Aglipay said.

Dy allegedly bought the property from a certain Ernesto Pangilinan in September last year.

Caringal said the drug factory was put up in early February and had been fully operational since May.

'Very intelligent'

Caringal called on Calabarzon residents, especially in remote areas, to exercise vigilance.

"Drug traffickers are very intelligent. They put their labs in unexpected places, where suspicion from the police is least possible. So, private citizens should be more vigilant in reporting dubious personalities in their areas," he said.

Capipisa residents were surprised that the mansion had been operating as a drug factory.

A fisherman told the INQUIRER that they thought the mansion was serving as a rest house for a wealthy Chinese businessman.

"We have been noticing some Chinese nationals frequenting the area. But we didn't imagine that it was a shabu lab," the fisherman said in Filipino.

Caringal said "strategic location" was what drug traffickers were on the lookout for.

"It's not important if the house is big or small. What is vital is its position. The suspects look for a place where they can easily escape if police come after them," he said.

He cited the drug laboratory uncovered in Silang, which he described as a two-story house located on a hillside in a remote barangay near Tagaytay City.

Barangay Capipisa is strategic because of its proximity to Manila Bay and nearby sea and fish ports, Caringal said.

He pointed out that while resorts abounded in the area, only a few people visited the beach even during summer. *With reports from Fausto Tatad and Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Jackson Dy probably RP's biggest drug lord

BY the reckoning of the police, Jackson Dy is probably the biggest drug lord in the Philippines today.

In the 15 years that he has been involved in the trade in illegal drugs, Dy established connections with local and foreign drug syndicates, according to Director Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

"He's not your ordinary drug lord," Matillano told the INQUIRER. "He's up there in the hierarchy of drug personalities."

This probably explains why Dy can afford to lose as much as P30 million in one gambling binge at the casinos, Matillano said, adding:

"Anyone who knows him won't be surprised by this. He's involved in the multibillion-peso drug trade. That's it."

Matillano could not name the businesses that Dy might have used as fronts for his supposed illegal operations.

But authorities are convinced that the man could not have been involved in the drug trade for many years without protection from people in the government, Matillano said.

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, Calabarzon regional police director, said police had been monitoring Dy's unusually extravagant lifestyle.

"Dy was always seen in casinos in Metro Manila," Caringal said. "He was reportedly losing millions of pesos in gambling every night. He was literally throwing away money in the casinos. That gave the police the signal to keep an eye on him." *Christian V. Esguerra in Manila; Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Miser in UK . . .

From page A1

Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. He left nothing to his two daughters who had no idea of their late father's wealth.

"We couldn't believe he had such a fortune. He wouldn't do any repairs on the house and he wouldn't spend on anything that he considered unnecessary," daughter Patricia Pilgrim told The Times.

Pilgrim, who looked after Leek during his final 10 years, said her father would visit his neighbor's terraced house because he "would much prefer to use her electricity than his own."

Pilgrim told Ananova.com that Leek bought all his clothes from Oxfam charity shops, rarely went on holiday and preferred to ride a bike whenever possible although he drove a 1980s G-registered Fiat.

Leek, a former insurance agent, lived in a 40,000-pound terrace house.

Pilgrim said she did her father's book-keeping and she knew he had a sizeable amount of money invested into stocks and shares for over 40 years. But she only learned exactly how much he had saved after he died.

Pilgrim did not have any contact with her father since he divorced her mother in the early 1960s. Ten years ago father and daughter reconciled but by that time Leek had already decided to leave his estate to charity.

Pilgrim said she did not know why her father, who was going blind at the time of his death, had chosen to leave his money to the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Pilgrim said she and her sister, Josephine, were disappointed to have missed out on their father's legacy, but respected his decision to give the money to charity.

"What he has given them is marvellous and I'm very proud of him." *With a report from Reuters*

FBI 'did not act as requested'

SOME of the findings of the US congressional inquiry include:

- From 1994 to the summer of 2001 the intelligence community received information indicating terrorists were contemplating the use of aircraft in attacks, but the information was not acted upon.
- The intelligence community failed to recognize the "collective significance" of a huge body of information flowing in through the FBI, the CIA and the National Security Agency, including detailed movements of two of the al-Qaida hijackers: Khalid Al-Mihdhar and Nawaf Alhazmi.
- On July 10, 2001, 59 days before the attacks, the FBI field office in Phoenix, Arizona urgently notified specialized anti-terror units at FBI headquarters in Washington and its New York field office that Osama bin Laden was sending students to the United States for flight training, with detailed suggestions for action. The communication "generated little or no interest at either FBI headquarters.
- From Sept. 8 to 10, 2001, the NSA "intercepted but did not translate or disseminate ... communications that indicated possible impending terrorist activity."
- "The quality of counterterrorism analysis was inconsistent, and many analysts were inexperienced, unqualified, undertrained and without access to critical information.
- There was "continuing conflict" between US intelligence agencies and "insufficient collaboration" between the NSA and FBI regarding the potential for terrorist attacks within the United States.
- The US military's top brass was reluctant to use military assets in counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan, or to support or participate in CIA operations against al-Qaida prior to Sept. 11.

CNN: 9/11 attacks hatched in RP

From page A1

pine Airlines flight, CNN said.

"They were sent to carry out an audacious plot to bomb 11 US airlines over the Pacific, which the FBI estimates could have killed 4,000 people," it said, adding that the plan was aborted after the two men's safe house accidentally caught fire.

Charged

Mohammed has been charged in the 1995 plot to bomb or hijack 11 US-bound flights coming from Asian countries, including the Philippines.

Yousef, who maintained an apartment in Manila, was later convicted and sentenced to life in prison for his role in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York.

CNN said Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza, a former intelligence official and now police commander of Pangasinan province, discovered the "blueprint" for the 9/11 attacks when he interrogated in Manila Abdul Hakim Murad, supposedly a former classmate of Yousef's.

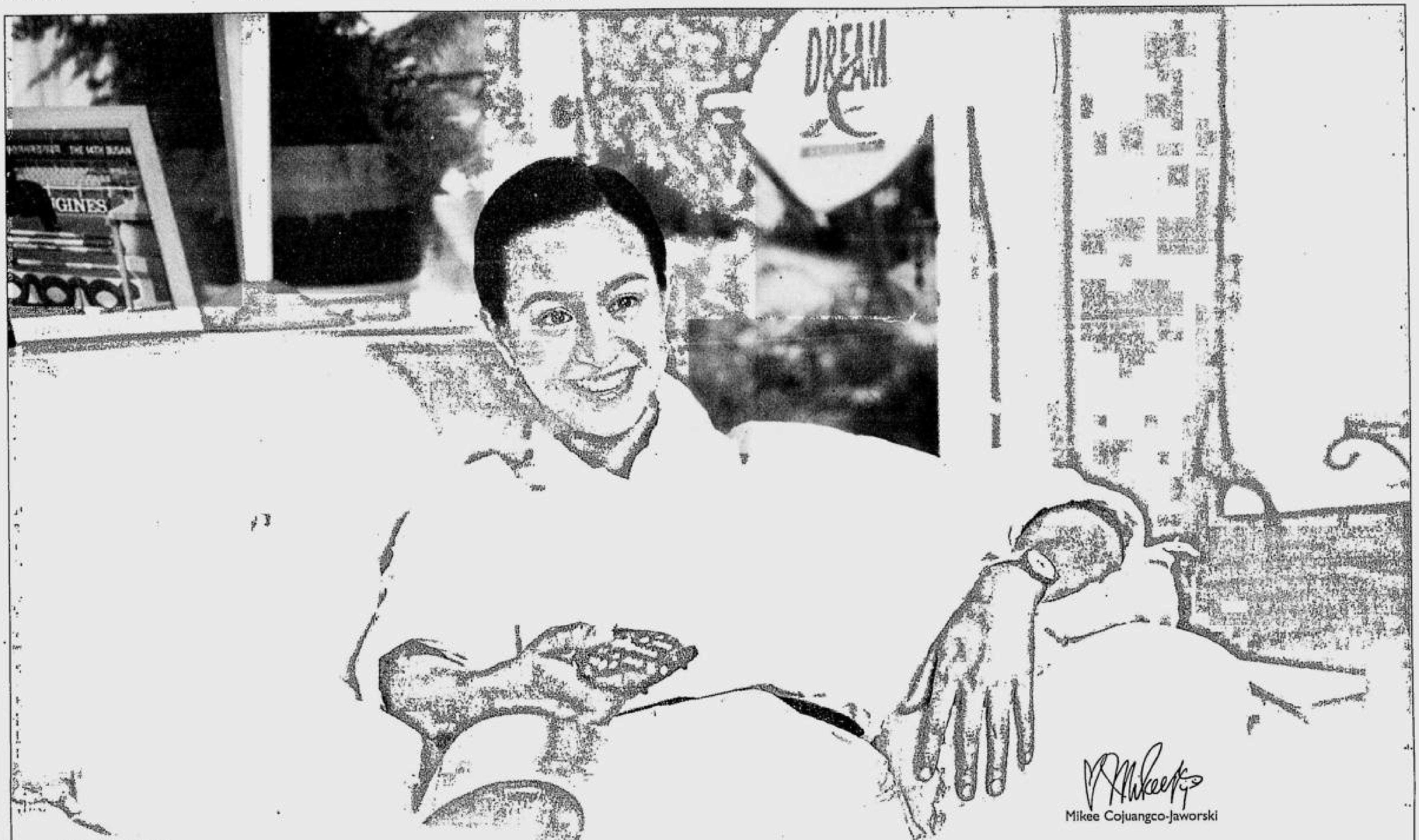
Papal slay plot

US officials have said that Murad—a Pakistani arrested in Manila in 1995 for allegedly plotting to kill Pope John Paul II and conspiring in the plot to bomb or hijack US-bound planes—took flight courses in the United States.

"They had a plan to crash the airplane, the commercial jetliner, into the specific target, and they have done it," Mendoza said in the CNN interview.

Besides the 9/11 attacks, Mohammed supposedly admitted plotting in Manila to kill then US President Bill Clinton and to bomb nuclear plants in the United States.

"Mohammed said the 1995 operation was his first for al-Qaida," CNN said. "Through the years as he rose up the ranks, he passed along the lessons he learned to the operatives he controlled."



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Al-Ghozi received tips on escape from cell

From page A1

pound in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Through his phone, al Ghozi was in constant touch with his unknown supporters before and after his escape, the official told the INQUIRER.

As of yesterday, police officials said that they believe Al Ghozi is still in the country, maybe in Mindanao trying to flee through the country's southern backdoor.

Ebdane in Gensan

In General Santos City, PNP chief director general Hermogenes Ebdane, who had been tasked by President Macapagal to head the manhunt for the fugitives, said he believes al-Ghozi has not yet left the country,

Ebdane told reporters in Alabel, Sarangani during an unannounced visit on Thursday.

The visit of the country's highest police official had fueled rumors the Indonesian bomber sought refuge in the South Cotabato-Sarangani-General Santos (Socsargen) area.

Al-Ghozi was arrested in Manila with a large cache of explosives in Quiapo, which he said were meant to bomb the US Embassy in Singapore and other Western targets there.

He also confessed to rigging several bombs that killed 22 people at the LRT on Dec. 30, 2000.

Some people believe it was not remote for the Indonesian bomber to hide in the Socsargen area because of his perceived connection with local armed Moro separatist groups.

However, Ebdane was quick to deny the rumors, saying the police were still trying to establish al-Ghozi's whereabouts.

Earlier, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) announced that Al-Ghozi had been sighted in the Lanao provinces.

"We are trying to verify all information. If our forces catch him, we will immediately turn him over to the government as a confidence building measure in connection with the peace process," Ghazali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said.

President Macapagal urged anyone with information to come forward saying it was "a matter that is important to our national security and to the safety and well-being of every Filipino and other citizens of the world."

Sighted in 6 places

Ebdane said the police were carefully sifting through information it was receiving since al-Ghozi's escape. He said there were even reports the terrorist had been sighted in at least six places all at the same time.

While Ebdane claims his visit was related to police projects undertaken in the area, he held a close door meeting with Central Mindanao police director Chief Supt. Manuel Raval and Sarangani provincial chief Supt. Willie Dangane.

Raval and Dangane were elusive when asked about the details of their meeting with the PNP chief.

Ople: Recapture in 3 days

Last Wednesday, Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said police expected to recapture al-Ghozi within three days based on information given by the MILF, which recently signed a peace agreement with the government.

He said Indonesia had given assurances that it would monitor all borders for al-Ghozi's possible entry.

Credibility problem

In Cotabato City, an influential Muslim leader said politics and corruption were playing a key role in the police's credibility problem.

Mohammad Adil, a retired major of the defunct Philippine Constabulary, said that in the past "it was with pride and honor to be identified with the PC.

"Now, it is humiliating to be known as a police officer," he said.

The bemedalled Adil was instrumental in breaking the backbone of piracy and smuggling in the Sulu Sea during the early '50s when he was commander of the erstwhile 86th PC Company. *With a report from AP*

GMA wants witnesses in presidential custody

From page A1

Presidential Fact-Finding Commission.

"The (commission) has acquired full jurisdiction over the investigation and will have control over the custody, security and questioning of potential witnesses," Ms Macapagal said.

The President also called on anyone with information about the Indonesian terrorist to get in touch with the commission, which holds office at the Department of Justice.

She said the threat of Al-Ghozi was real and gave assurances that the government would hunt him down without fail.

The head of the Public Attorney's Office said she found Palmares, who is at the center of the controversial escape of Al-Ghozi and two Abu Sayyaf detainees from Camp Crame, a credible government witness.

PAO chief Persida Rueda-Acosta also said her office would move to have the charges against him for the jailbreak dropped.

"This police officer is credible. He's a credible witness," Acosta told reporters after Palmares formally applied for the government's Witness Protection Program.

State witness

She said Palmares, whom she hoped to use as a state witness, might even lead to the "unraveling" of the alleged police conspiracy that led to the escape.

But though he may have been placed under the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation, Palmares is the first to admit his woes are far from over.

The young jail guard said he feared not just for his safety but for his family's as well, adding that it was his father Antonio, also an intelligence officer, who had received a death threat meant for him.

"We have not yet recovered from the blow to our reputation, and now we have another problem to contend with," he told reporters yesterday.

Consistent story

Acosta said she believed Palmares was credible after going over his story again and again and finding that he was consistent.

"Because he could relate to me (his allegations) on Tuesday, Wednesday, then yesterday....(he had) the same story," Acosta said.

She added that Palmares even pointed out mistakes in the English translation of his sworn statement, which was initially done in Filipino.

"I think he could unravel what had happened during that time because he was one among the jail guards and one among the officers present at that time," Acosta said.

Palmares had accused top officials of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group of conspiring to free Al-Ghozi and Abu Sayyaf members Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal.

Acosta said that Palmares had already identified the person who told him to leave his post when Al-Ghozi and the bandits escaped.

She added that Palmares also pointed to other "suspects" in the alleged conspiracy but she refused to name them.

Acosta said that Palmares' sworn statement was submitted on Wednesday to the Malacañang-appointed body investigating the case. former Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez heads the commission.

WPP application

Palmares was brought to the DOJ from the NBI at around 1:30 p.m. yesterday to apply for inclusion in the WPP.

But lawyer Cielitolindo Luyun, the program director, said they will still have to evaluate Palmares' application since the WPP law states that policemen are not covered by the program.

"There is a specific provision of the law which states that law enforcers are not eligible for admission but their immediate members of the family may be admitted," Luyun said.

He said that if Palmares is accepted, only his family will be covered by the program's benefits.

"We will see how we go about it," Luyun said.

He said that even those police officers who became witnesses in the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case were not covered by the program even after they were accepted.

"They were not covered; their immediate family (members) were the ones covered. The rationale behind that is that the law presumes that they (law enforcers) could protect themselves," Luyun said.

"As of now, (Palmares) is under the protective custody of the NBI so automatically he is (being) given protection," Luyun said.

"We were requested to place him under our care and to make sure that he will be protected," NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco told the INQUIRER.

Luyun said an evaluator will go over Palmares' application. If it passes, Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong will then issue a certificate of admission.

Then Palmares will have to sign a memorandum of agreement with the DOJ, Luyun said.

But Acosta said that she is optimistic that Palmares will be admitted to the program.

"I'm very optimistic that this officer, this very young officer, will be admitted. I'm optimistic because this police officer is credible. He's a credible witness," Acosta said.

But Palmares is not yet off the hook. He could still be held criminally liable for the escape of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

The Ordoñez commission is still evaluating whether to proceed with the charges the Philippine National Police has filed against the policeman for the escape, according to Acosta.

Palmares' fate, she said, would be known after the body has completed its 30-day investigation into the mysterious escape.

"It's up to the committee to decide on his fate," she told the INQUIRER yesterday. "But we are convinced that he is innocent."

Palmares also related yesterday that before he left for duty the week of Al-Ghozi's escape on July 14, he was surprised that his mother had given him a big bag full of clothes.

"I told her that the bag was too big, that I would be home for the weekend," he said.

Before the week was out, Palmares was no longer able to leave Camp Crame because he would be mired in one of the biggest controversies to hit the Philippine National Police. *With reports from Leila Salaverria, Christian Esguerra, Cynthia Balana and AFP*

PEA defies GMA order sacking 5 officials

From page A1

up the cost of the Roxas Blvd. access road named after the President's father.

The PDMB controversy is the latest scandal to have hit the PEA, the agency that manages the P150-billion Manila Bay reclamation area.

Sulficio Tagud Jr., a PEA director, alleged last year that PEA officials and contractor Jesusito Legaspi colluded in the overpricing of the P1-billion PDMB, a 1.1 km asphalt road that runs parallel to Roxas Blvd.

Romulo, in a July 10 memorandum, told PEA general manager Teodorico Taguinod that the agency's retention of the five officers was in "defiance of the President's order" of Dec. 13, 2002.

He reminded Taguinod of a Dec. 16, 2002 letter to the chairman and members of the PEA board in which the President's order was "clearly conveyed" to dismiss the five officers with the corresponding penalty of forfeiture of retirement benefits and disqualification from government service again.

"In spite of the clear instructions, [the five officers] are allegedly still reporting for work and drawing up salaries," Romulo said.

He gave Taguinod 15 days to explain why the five officers have not been dismissed.

A PEA official, who did not want to be named, said the six-member board met yesterday and "approved" the dismissal of the officers "to comply with the orders of the President."

But the official said Taguinod has yet to serve the notice of dismissal on the five who have continued to report to the general manager's office since they were ordered "fired" by Ms Macapagal eight months ago.

The official confirmed that the five continue to draw their salaries.

"Of course, because they have not been dismissed," he said but he expects Taguinod to serve the dismissal notice next week, possibly on Monday.

The official said that as soon as the notice of dismissal is served on the five, it would take another five days before they are taken off the payroll.

Tiglao has also called Taguinod's attention to the PEA's continued defiance of the President's order and asked that the board "act on the earlier orders" even as he noted that the arraignment in the Sandiganbayan of the PEA officers and the other respondents was scheduled for Aug. 20.

"We have been informed that despite these orders and most recently, the filing of charges by the Ombudsman and the scheduled Sandiganbayan arraignment, the PEA executives are still reporting for work and drawing their salaries," Tiglao said.

Tiglao recalled that the President, acting on a recommendation of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, issued AO 53 dismissing the five officers.

Tiglao himself wrote Taguinod in April to ask why he "reassigned" the five officers to his office "instead of imposing sanctions" against them.

"Please note that we have been informed that the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel has affirmed the power of the PEA board of directors to discipline PEA personnel," Tiglao said.

Before the graft charges were filed in the Sandiganbayan, Taguinod had explained to PEA employees that the five were career service officers who enjoy security of tenure and therefore could not be dismissed without due process.

Aside from ordering the dismissal of the five officers, the President also directed in her Nov. 30, 2002 "Ulat sa Bayan," the President's report on the administration's accomplishment for the year, that the scandal-plagued PEA be abolished.

But the PEA management was not any more enthusiastic about the abolition order as the dismissal of the five officers, with Taguinod explaining that the PEA could only be abolished by an act of Congress.

The five officers even attended a board meeting where the House bill proposing the abolition of the PEA was discussed, according to the minutes of the PEA senior management committee meetings on April 25 and 30, which were made available to the INQUIRER.

Since neither PEA nor Malacañang came forward with a bill, Rep. Edelmiro Amante filed the bill proposing PEA's abolition.

In February, Taguinod appealed for a reconsideration of the President's order suspending all pending and proposed projects of PEA until the investigation into the PDMB scam was completed.

Taguinod said the PEA had to continue to conduct normal business or it would be in danger of "impairing its contractual obligations."

Joaquin Lagonera, the senior deputy executive secretary, replied that the President had approved certain temporary measures to prevent that from happening.

He said the President had also directed the PEA to start distributing its assets, or so-called "crown jewels," among the appropriate government agencies.

Lagonera asked Taguinod to give Malacañang a report on the plan and timetable for the winding down of the agency's activities.

Mom yields to in-law on son's burial

From page A1

Claudine Marie Peleo-Angeles, to decide on the funeral rites.

"I did it for my son. He had suffered so much. I want him to rest," Josie told the INQUIRER.

This paved the way for the cremation of Peter's remains today in Dagupan City (Saturday, July 26). The ashes will be taken to Makati City on Sunday for burial.

Claudine, 26, said her mother-in-law signed a waiver on Thursday night authorizing the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park in Dagupan City to proceed with the cremation.

The fate of Peter's remains had been uncertain for the last three weeks after Josie and her relatives prevented a Philippine Military Academy escort team from bringing the body to a crematorium in Dagupan City on July 8.

The standoff left Peter's coffin lying in a hearse from July 8 to July 14. The body was transferred to a freezer at the Eternal Gardens compound on July 14 as the family squabble reached the courts.

Josie said she and Claudine talked on Thursday night and agreed that Peter's body would be cremated at 7 a.m. today.

The Villasis regional trial court dismissed on July 22 Josie's petition to stop Claudine from having Peter's remains cremated.

Josie initially planned to appeal but later decided against it for the sake of Peter, her only child.

But she could not hide her pique at Claudine for "not listening to a mother's plea."

Painful

"It's painful because Claudine could not understand me. My husband died while I was carrying Peter in my womb. Now, I have lost Peter. If I did not take care of him, there would be no Peter James whom she had married. My request to bury the body was a simple request of a mother, but she could not understand me," she said.

Josie added that she was tired, citing the pressure she had been getting from Claudine and her family.

Her friends and the parish priest in their hometown of Bautista, Pangasinan, also advised her to give in to Claudine's wishes and "leave everything to God."

However, most of Josie's relatives had wanted her to fight on.

"(But) while I can continue fighting, I told them I gave my consent for the sake of my only son," she said.

Josie described her conversation with Claudine, who is two months pregnant, as "civil" and "as if she was not my daughter-in-law."

Claudine, a doctor in Baguio City, said she wanted to proceed with Angeles' cremation because the cost of keeping her husband's body in a freezer had reached P50,000.

"We asked (Josie) if she could pay for the Friday storage, because we are charged P5,000 a day. She refused. Eternal Gardens gave us a 20-percent discount for the last storage day instead," she said.

"My mother-in-law signed the waiver demanded by Eternal Gardens at around 7:30 p.m. on Thursday. The (crematorium) wanted a waiver to guarantee that Josie would no longer seek (new judicial ruling) over Peter," Claudine told the INQUIRER on Friday.

Claudine said she, her mother, Anita Cuesta-Peleo, and an aunt spent half a day on Thursday negotiating with Josie, to convince her that Angeles "wanted to be cremated."

Heated

Claudine said the negotiations were heated. When Josie finally relented, however, she still insisted that a cremation should not push through on a Tuesday or a Friday because it conflicted with Catholic doctrine.

Josie also demanded that Claudine, her mother and her aunt should view the whole process as penance, the INQUIRER was told.

Claudine said her family agreed, despite the trauma it could cause her unborn child.

"(Josie) told me she was not capable of viewing the (cremation process, which would take four hours). But she demanded that I watch the whole process with my mother and my aunt. She explicitly told (Eternal Gardens) that no cremation would proceed until we show up," Claudine said.

She had asked for a low-key ceremony from military officials on Sunday.

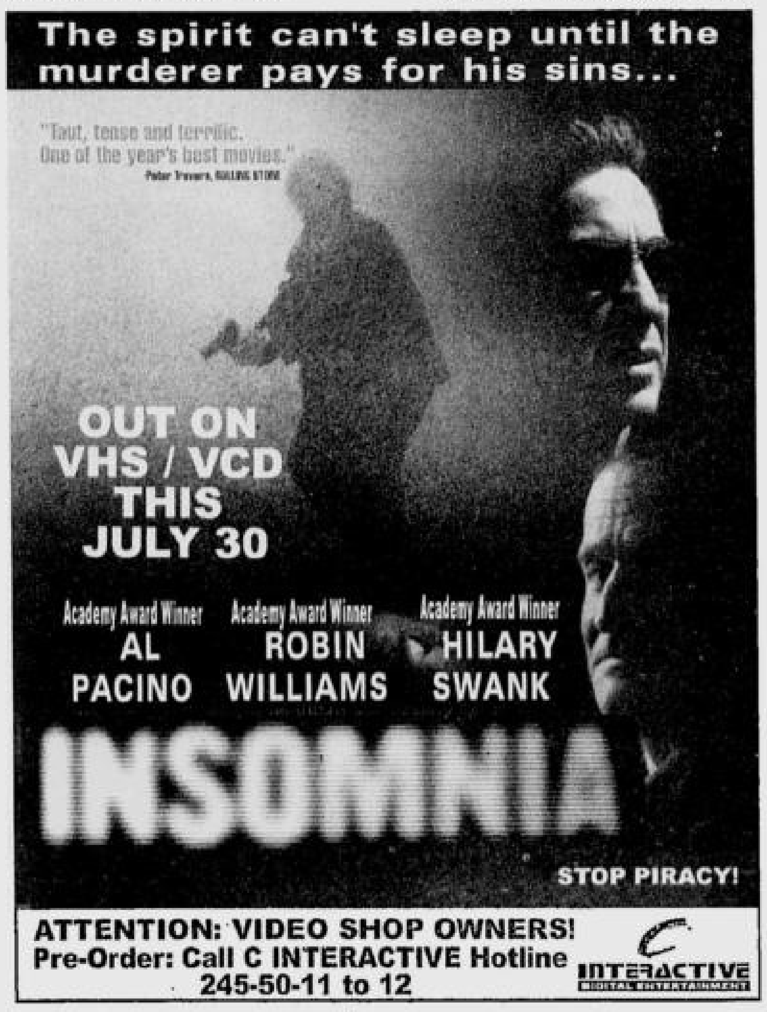
2 honors

"Peter was already given two sets of military honors. For a lieutenant (he was promoted posthumously to captain upon his death), that was too many honors so I decided to forego with another one for Sunday. We want to be with him quietly for the last time," she said.

Today's cremation ends an almost absurd if tragic drama that echoes the sad fate of Claudine's and Peter's parents.

Peter's father, Pedro Angeles, an Army soldier, died in an ambush in the 1970s. Like Claudine today, Josie was pregnant with Peter when Pedro was killed.

Claudine's father, Amador Peleo II, a member of the PMA "Maagap" Class of 1973, was killed in 1988 when his plane crashed near the Loakan Airport in this city.



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Fernando: Early bird on the campaign trail

By Margaux Ortiz and Luige del Puerto

A WISH and a song.

These marked the 57th birthday of Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) chair Bayani Fernando yesterday.

Fernando said in a press conference that he wished Metro Manila residents would become better citizens and abide by the rules and regulations of the MMDA.

"And I hope they don't get mad at me for making them follow the rules," Fernando said, laughing.

The MMDA chair defended his projects from the criticisms of militant groups that these were "anti-poor."

"Rich people don't use the sidewalks, but ordinary citizens do," Fernando said. "They are the ones who benefit from the MMDA's projects."

In Marikina City, government employees unwrapped their gift for their former mayor, whose candidacy they may have given an early start.

The gift was a version of the popular "Spageti" song of the Sex Bombs which could end up being his campaign jingle if he does run for vice president in 2004.

The song was titled "Spaghetti ni BF" and highlighted the accomplishments of Fernando as Marikina mayor and as traffic and garbage czar of Metro Manila.

In part, the song says: *"Apir tayo/Nawala Basura ko/Luminis Paligid ko/*BF, BF *Tayo."*

The chorus goes: *"Marikina'y sumikat/Metro Manila'y gumanda/ Dahil sa isang tao/ Na mayroong disiplina.*

*"At sa bansang hirap/*BF *ang katapat/Ihalal na lang natin nang mabago ang bansa/*BF can get it done/ *Nang gumanda ang ating* country/BF for Vice-President/ *'Yan ang aming masasabi!"*

Marikina information officer Carmelita Lorenzo said the song could be Fernando's jingle in next year's election. "It's very catchy, indeed," Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo said city health employees thought of recording the song as a birthday present to Fernando.

The MMDA chair, who announced his plans of running last week, said he wanted to do "something big" if he wins.

But his candidacy faces stiff opposition from militants, urban poor groups and environmentalists.

This week an international fact-finding team expressed concern over potential human rights violations in the demolitions of the MMDA.

FERNANDO goes on the campaign trail singing his own tune.

Customs collector survives ambush

THE CUSTOMS collector at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) survived an ambush by at least 10 men at the Port Area in Manila last night, but his driver was not so lucky.

Police said Felipe "Ping" 'Bartolome was slightly wounded in the chest and was rushed to the Manila Doctors Hospital on UN Avenue, while his driver, Erwin Ermida, was killed on the spot.

Bartolome's two police bodyguards, PO3 Ricardo Grata and PO1 Raul Claro, were also wounded. It was not known why Bartolome had security escorts but the ambush was the second staged against Customs officials in two days.

On Wednesday, the deputy customs collector and an appraiser in Cebu City were killed in an ambush. (See story on Page A12)

Last night's ambush site, the Port Area's Anda Circle is a usually busy rotunda a few hundred meters from the MICP. *Leila Salaverria*

RAINY DAY DIP
Typhoon "Harurot" did not only bring lashing winds and heavy rains, it also brought joy to children who had fun swimming in the rainwater-filled excavations on Pasong Tamo, Makati. ERIK ARAZAS

Police death convicts get 5 more years

By Tina Santos

A POLICE official and nine other officers now on death row have each been sentenced to five years imprisonment for obstruction of justice.

Supt. Francisco Ovilla and his men, Senior Insp. Edwin Misador, SPO4 Florendo Lucila, SP03 Benjamin Fonacier, SP02 Teodorico Lado, SP01 Ronnie Rodaje, SP01 Orencio Jurado, P03 Orlin Comia, P03 Manuel Malong and P03 Ladislao Rebancos, had been sentenced to death in 2000 for releasing suspected drug pushers Jimmy Tan and Albert Randy Koo, in exchange for P600,000 and a Honda Civic in August 1999.

On Thursday, Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court Judge Henri Inting said the police officers were guilty of obstruction of justice when they destroyed documents, such as the police blotter, that detailed the drug operation where they released the suspected pushers.

Court witness SP02 Reynato Resurrecion told the judge how Ovilla and the nine other lawmen conspired to release the foreign-based drug suspects shortly after the 1999 buy-bust operation at SM North Edsa.

At the time, Ovilla was the station commander of Central Police District Station 9 in Anonas.

Resurrecion, who also participated in the operation, told the court how Ovilla ordered the release of the drug suspects and the destruction of the documents as soon as the police official received the car and the cash.

The policemen are now waiting for the schedule of their execution at the National Bilibid Prison.

Aside from the ten officers, two other policemen were indicted for the same crime.

Ovilla's deputy, Supt. Loreto dela Cruz, died in the course of the trial. SP01 Eusebio Zambrano had been acquitted after the prosecution failed to establish his participation in the incident.

METROBRIEFS

No water in Imus

RESIDENTS of Barangays Poblacion 1, Poblacion 2, Poblacion 3, Poblacion 4, and Toclong 1 in Imus, Cavite will have no water for two days starting July 28 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. the following day. Affected residents, who get their water from the Plaza Garcia Deepwell Pumping Station, may call Maynilad Hotline 1626 for the water rationing schedule.

Suspects identified

"I HAVE told you before, but you won't stop doing it." It was all Adela Panuncio had to say to her dead son Jerry when she claimed his body at a morgue in Marikina City on Thursday. Jerry, 36, was among four men who were killed in last Monday's shoot-out in front of a Marikina police station. According to Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas, Jr., city police chief, the suspects were behind last month's robbery of a a jewelry store in Ever Gotesco on Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. In that heist, a security guard was killed. Police have confirmed the identities of two other suspects—Victoriano Dagami, 34, and Emiliano Elaine, 46, driver of the Romcat taxi the suspects were using. The fourth man remained unidentified. *Luige del Puerto*

Noisy man silenced

A NOISY couple who usually got the goat of neighbors was permanently silenced Thursday night. Jeffrey Abayon, 25, of Sampaloc, Manila, was shot in the head by unidentified suspects after the victim engaged in another ear-splitting row with his live-in partner Annaliza Subido. Before the shooting, Abayon had been drinking with his neighbors, police said. Investigators later found a firearm of unknown caliber inside the room of suspect Melchor Maning, who was seen talking to the victim moments before he was killed. *Leila Salaverria*

Vigilante killing

A SUSPECTED drug pusher was said to have been tortured before he was put to death allegedly by members of a vigilante group in Quezon City. Bystanders found the body stuffed in a black garbage bag at the corner of Aurora Boulevard and Anonas Road, Quezon City at around 6 a.m., said SP01 Cris Badjao of the Central Police District Office. Police said the victim was around 43 years old, 5-foot-4 and of medium build. Badjao said a nail was found embedded on the forehead of the victim, while two other nails were hammered on top of his head. Police said the victim died of strangulation. *Tina Santos*

Guard shot

SECURITY guard Riger Glomar of the Intramuros Administration shot and wounded a colleague, Amado Alido Tubil, for engaging in a brawl in Manila Thursday night. P02 Ramil Bergado said that Tubil, 26, was shot in the back while he was hiding behind a parked car beside the San Agustin Church on Arsobispo Street, Intramuros. Tubil was taken to the Ospital ng Manila, while Glomar surrendered to police. *Leila Salaverria*

Makati's P430-M 'mess'

From page A18

port. It added however that the actual cost of the equipment was only P2,447,376.

According to the COA report, Makati paid P7,980,000 for ultrasound machines which actually cost only P1,299,750. Worse, the COA discovered that a better model was available at only P925,000.

The COA also said an Olympus endoscopic video information system, a choledocofiberscope and an Olympus lap chole was bought for P22,402,096 in spite of an offer for the same machines for only P10,954,254.

In the purchase of books, the Makati government allegedly bought books worth P124,924,229 in 2000 and P98,750,724 in 2001 "without securing the best terms for the government contrary to the provisions of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports."

The COA report noted that no discounts were reflected in all transactions in violation of pertinent provisions of the COA. It then calculated losses of P18,332,541 in terms of unreflected discounts.

Auditors said the Makati government paid P1.6 million for an X-ray unit which was not delivered but was allegedly made to appear to have been delivered using falsified documents.

The acquisition of 53 computers and air-conditioning units worth P24,030,045 was also found by the COA to have been overpriced by P10,145,378.

Citing the supposed discrepancies in the purchases, the COA recommended the filing of graft charges against the suppliers in these deals and the concerned city officials.

In a statement, the Makati government pointed out that the Ombudsman already "closed" the investigation into the matter after Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado submitted their comments on the report.

The statement said that in April last year, Mercado formed a committee to evaluate the COA findings and discovered "flaws in the procedure, accuracy and completeness in the report."

Mercado raised these concerns before the Ombudsman which then sent the report back to the COA.

In a letter by acting-Ombudsman Gervacio to the COA dated Sept. 22, 2002, he said, "The allegations of Mr. Mercado and counsel being serious, studies thereof were conducted by the (Ombudsman's) Office of Legal Affairs and the Fact-Finding Intelligence Bureau. Both deemed it prudent and expedient to refer the matter to the (COA) for prompt consideration."

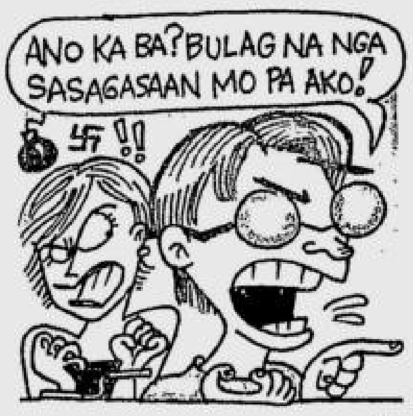
"In the meantime," Gervacio added, "consideration of this matter by this Office is temporarily closed and terminated without prejudice to its revival should the evidence warrant."

But Engr. Aida Talavera, a member of the audit team, told the INQUIRER that they already incorporated the comments of the Makati City government into the report, which is considered "final."

"The LGUs were given the chance to voice out their comments during a series of meetings we called. We are not issuing anything else aside from the report," Talavera said.

She added that it was part of their procedures to ask the comment of the local government concerned before their findings become official.

She clarified that other comments on the report by the Ombudsman can be attached to the report "once the cases have been filed."



ANO KA BA? BULAG NA NGA SASAGASAAN MO PA AKO!
卐 !!

Actress rapped for trying to run over blind mate

THIS is what happens when a husband leaves the house against the wishes of his wife–or at least this was the case between model Pia Pilapil and husband Gerardo Gonzalo.

On Thursday, Gonzalo wanted to go with his friend Rowena May Sullano to the latter's house in La Vista in Quezon City. Pilapil did not want him to go but he still went.

After he left their home in Antipolo with Sullano aboard the latter's car, Pilapil reportedly followed them in her Mitsubishi Lancer (UPH 127) and hit Sullano's Ford Escape.

When they reached Sullano's house, Pilapil then allegedly rammed the garage and hit Sullano's son, Jose, who was slightly injured.

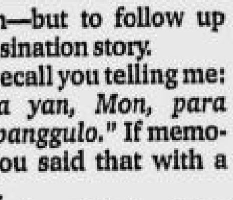
Pilapil then allegedly tried to run over her husband who was pulled out of the way by Sullano.

Charges have been filed against Pilapil who could not be reached for comment.

Tina Santos

Ping Lacson's hypocritical letter

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo



HERE'S a letter from an unlikely source. It was addressed to Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, INQUIRER editor in chief.

Essentially, the letter says I was unfair to former President Corazon Aquino in Tuesday's column.

Here's the letter in full:

"Dear Mrs. Magsanoc:

"I normally don't read Mr. Ramon Tulfo's column because of his predilection to unfairly accuse and criticize news subjects without basis. Today, I was shocked when I was shown a copy of your issue, pointing out that particular heartless and cruel item he had written on our former president, Mrs. Cory Aquino.

"I believe Mrs. Aquino has never said she has not forgiven her husband's assassins, only that the convicted soldiers should finally tell the truth as to who the mastermind was. She certainly cannot be faulted for not believing them, that it was Galman who shot the late senator.

"I feel that to reduce her husband's martyrdom to the level that Tulfo has dragged it—just a way to have her catapulted to the presidency—is disgusting and despicable.

"Mr. Tulfo owes Mrs. Aquino and the millions of Filipinos who believe in Ninoy's martyrdom and Cory's cause, an apology for this mindless tirade against her.

"It's no way to treat a lady who did her duty to her country and, truly, a respected icon of democracy.

Sincerely yours,
Sen. Panfilo Lacson (signed).

* * *

Hello, Hypo! That's short for hypocrite.

Ang galing mo sa drama, Ping! Palakpakan!

A couple of days after Ninoy's assassination on Aug. 21, 1983, I went to your office at the Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG) only to make a social call—we were still good friends then—but to follow up on the assassination story.

I vividly recall you telling me: *"Mabuti na yan, Mon, para wala nang panggulo."* If memory serves you said that with a boyish grin.

Roughly translated, your statement would be: "On the other hand, Ninoy's assassination was good for the country because there would no longer be a nuisance."

* * *

Ping, you're an expert at double-talk. You say something but you mean another thing.

Many people still remember your famous statement when you were still chief of the Philippine National Police: "I hate politics. I can never be a politician." Words to that effect.

Where are you now?

* * *

It's obvious why you wrote that letter which oozes with sympathy for Ninoy's widow.

You want to win over to your side millions of Cory's supporters so they will vote for you in 2004. That's how desperate you are in becoming president.

But, please, Ping *magpakulo ka* but not at the expense of other people. And especially, not at my expense.

And, by the way, I know you didn't write that letter. It was too good to have been written by you.

* * *

If Republic Act 9165 had been passed earlier, those cops who "planted" cocaine on four young men outside a billiard hall on Tomas Morato Street, Quezon City, last year, would be candidates for lethal injection.

RA 9165, passed several weeks ago, penalizes with death policemen who plant illegal drugs on innocent people.

Chief Insp. Romualdo Iglesia, formerly of the defunct Narcotics Group and now with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), led a team of narcotic agents in framing four youths who are scions of well-to-do families. One of the boys is the grandson of the owner of La Suerte Cigars factory.

* * *

One of the cops who took part in that frame-up operation, PO3 Julieto L. Borja, confessed recently after wrestling with his conscience.

Borja said that Iglesia ordered his men to frame up Vincent Hontiveros, grandson of the tobacco magnate, so they would be able to earn millions in bribe money.

According to Borja, the cocaine that they "planted" on Hontiveros and his friends came from a town in Quezon province.

* * *

I am very much interested in this "frame up" case because I wrote about it last year.

I said then that one of the boys could not have been a drug trafficker, as the narcotics agents claimed, because he was a "special child." The Quezon City Prosecutor's Office has dismissed the drug trafficking case against the special child, Tristan Ngo.

But nobody believed me then. One tabloid even reported that I was pressuring then Narcotics Group chief Efren Fernandez to release Ngo. *"Inaarbor ni* Tulfo," as the Tagalog tabloid put it.

Nobody could have been happier than this writer when I read about Borja's confession. I was proven right.

FOUR DIGIT
3 6 2 8
(In exact order)

SUERTRES
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MEGALOTTO 6/45
18 22 33 37 40 45

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**

Makati's P430-M 'mess'

MERCADO: Report is 'flawed'

By Alcuin Papa

THE COMMISSION on Audit (COA) has discovered some P430 million lost in alleged anomalous purchases of hospital and office equipment, textbooks and trucks by the city of Makati from 2000 to 2001.

But the Makati City government branded the auditing procedures used by the COA special task force which cited the alleged anomalous deals as "seriously flawed."

Subsequently, acting-Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio referred the report back to the COA, citing Mercado's objections.

Gervacio has also "temporarily closed and terminated" the proceedings for the filing of graft charges against concerned Makati officials.

Released in 2002, the report of the COA's Special Task Force to Review and/or Audit Contracts Involving Infrastructure Projects and Purchases of Supplies, Materials and Equipment of Local Government Units in Metro Manila (STFLGUs) covers the years 2000 and 2001.

According to the report, certain documents were falsified and signatures were faked "to justify exclusive distributorship" of Apollo Medical Equipment and Supplies for the purchase of P70,561,700 million worth of hospital equipment.

Among the items cited in the COA report included a dry heat sterilizer system which was bought for P10.46 million although it purportedly did not conform to specifications for the Ospital ng Makati.

The acquisition of a fetal monitoring system cost the Makati government P2.68 million. But what was delivered was a unit that cost only P538,000, the COA report said.

In buying 188 hospital beds, 220 bedside cabinets, 10 beds for the intensive care unit and four orthopedic beds, Makati paid P36,431,700, according to the re-

Makati/ A17

GERVACIO: Probe 'terminated'

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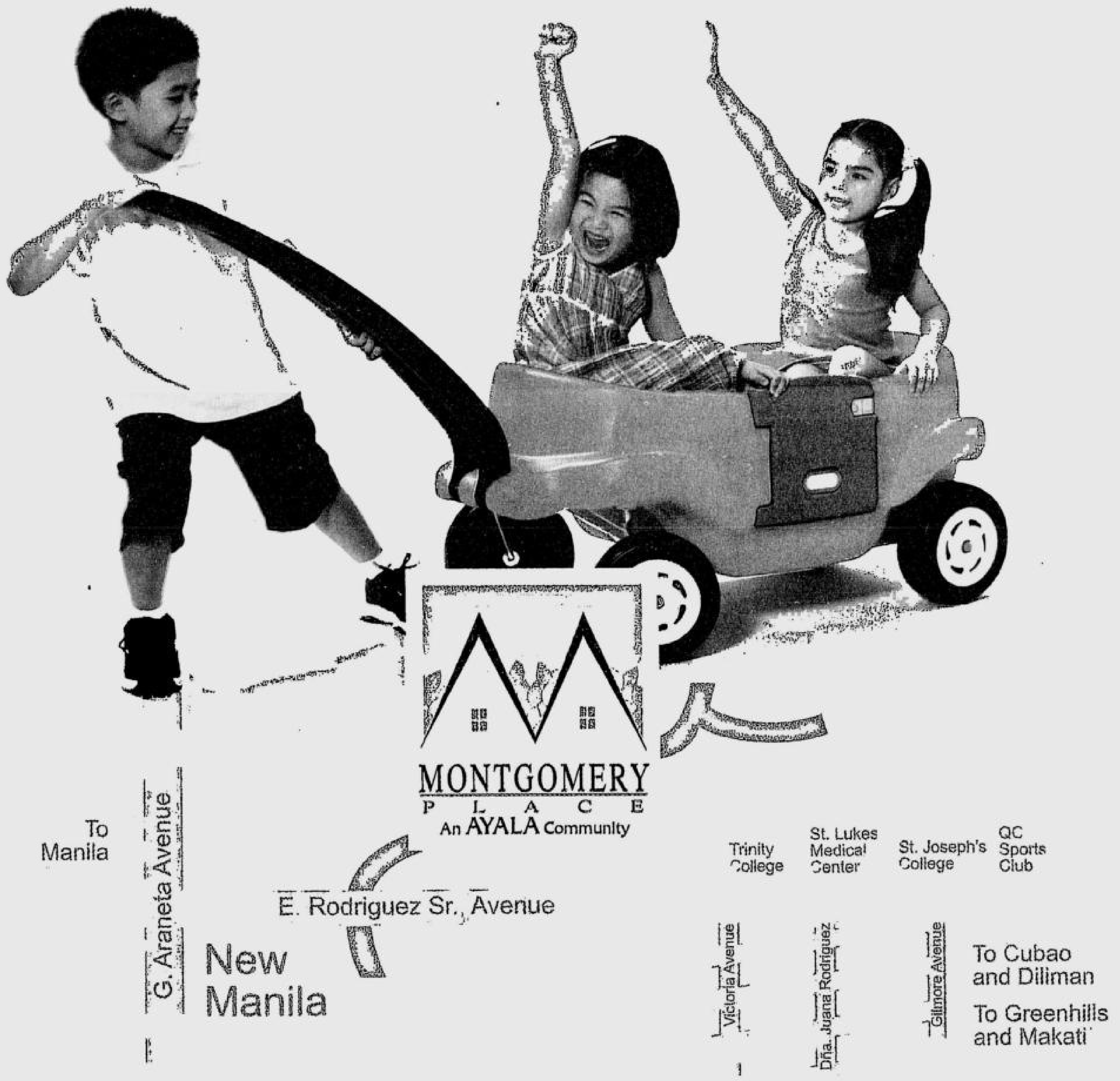

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SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Lions roar as Bughao gives Cards the blues

By June Navarro

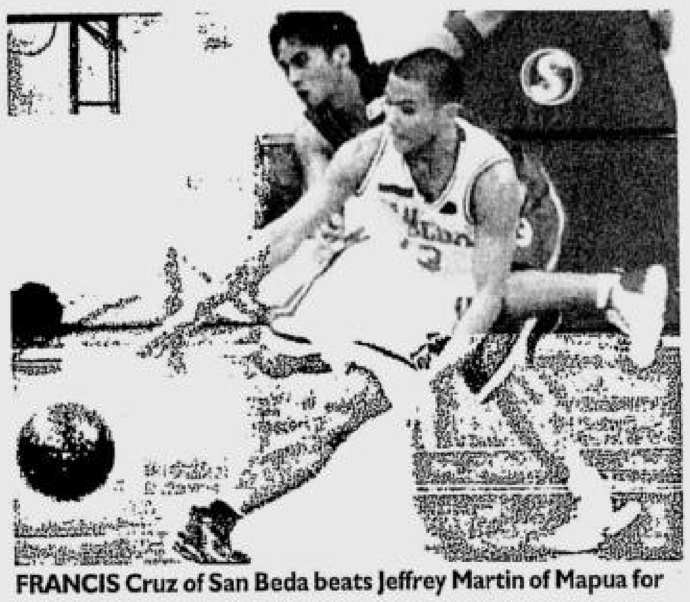
RONNIE Bughao capped a stellar performance with four free throws at crunchtime as the San Beda Lions outsteadied the Mapua Cardinals, 85-82, yesterday to grab the solo lead in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

The 6-foot Bughao finished with 23 points as he took over from Arjun Cordero, who unloaded 21 in the first half to boost the Lions to a 28-25 lead at the end of the first quarter and a 49-41 advantage at halftime.

Cordero also wound up with 23 in helping the Lions finish their first-round schedule with a 5-2 win-loss record.

The Cardinals, who tied the count at 67-all to pave the way for

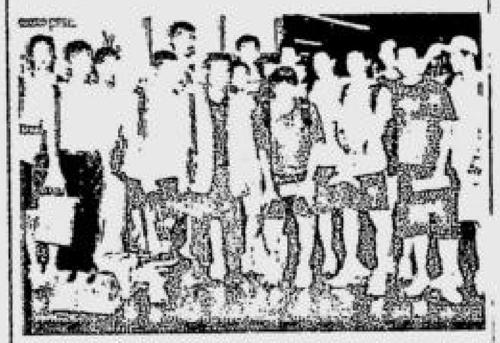
LIONS/ A20



FRANCIS Cruz of San Beda beats Jeffrey Martin of Mapua for possession.

RUDY ESPERAS

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ South Korea's Yonsei quintet arrives /A20

■ Poveda student creates ripple in SEAG tryouts /A22

■ Pacquiao's turn to step down, says challenger /A22

■ Popov makes classy encore /A24

■ Lance targets time trial/A24

SPORTS TV

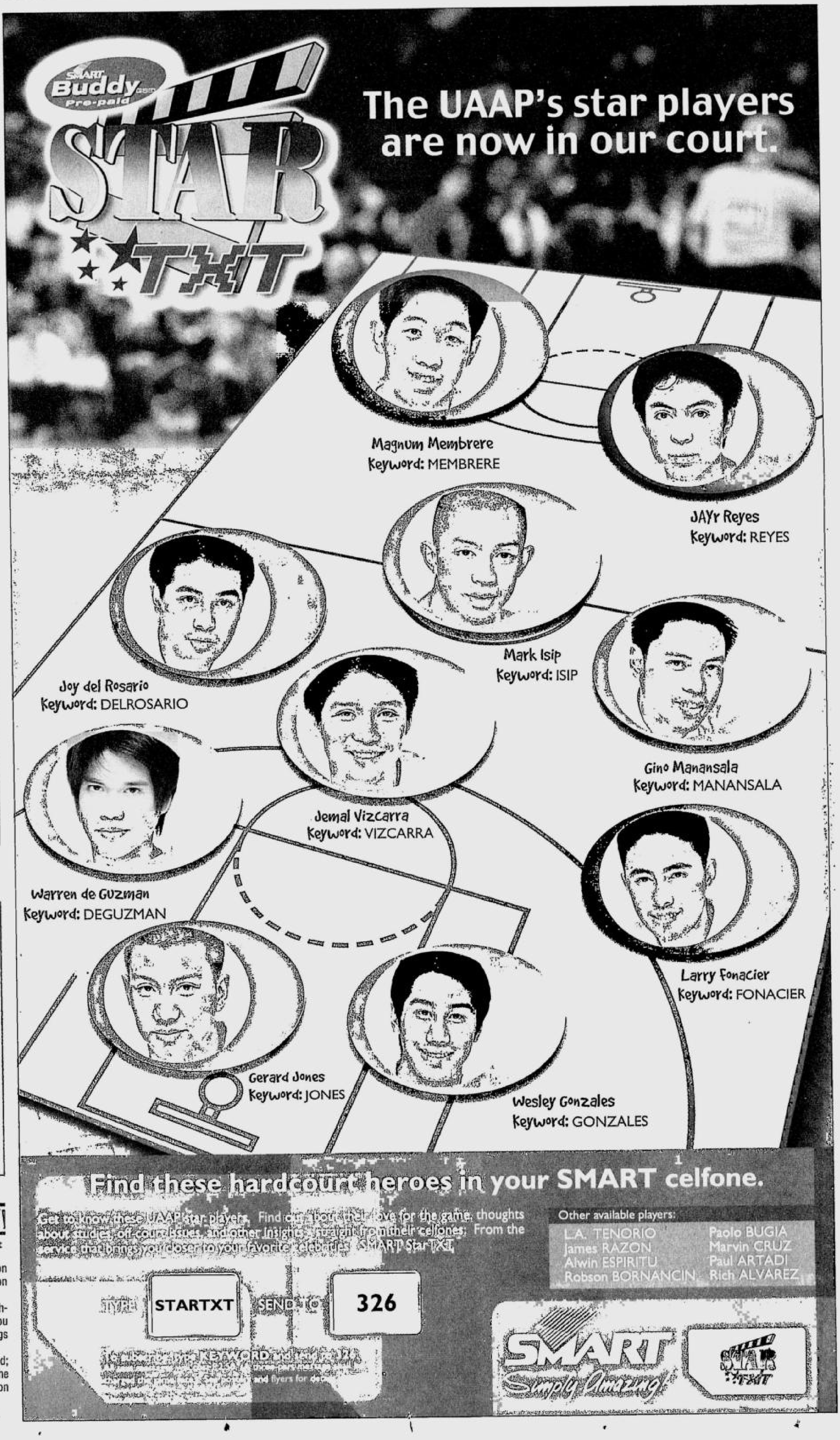
Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Summer League—Spurs vs Suns; 8 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.); Solar Sports —Defending champion San Antonio battles Phoenix in this off-season contest.

NBA Inside Stuff; 10 a.m. (r); Star Sports - Let Ahmad Rashad and Summer Sanders keep you updated on the latest off - season happenings in the NBA.

Knicks vs Nets, Game 3, 1994 Eastern First Round; 11 a.m. (r - 5 p.m.); Solar Sports—Relive the Battle of the Hudson Bay as New York takes on New Jersey in an thrilling playoff match-up.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



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Tams target solo lead vs Tigers

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	3	0
FEU	3	0
UE	2	1
Ateneo	1	2
Adamson	1	2
UST	1	2
NU	1	2
UP	0	3

GAMES TODAY (*Loyola Gym*)
11 a.m.—NU vs Ateneo (Jrs)
2 p.m.—NU vs Ateneo (Srs)
4 p.m.—UST vs FEU (Srs)

FAR Eastern, the 1997 champion, seeks anew the solo leadership when it battles Santo Tomas today even as titleholder Ateneo battles National University in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Loyola Gym.

Tied with La Salle on top of the eight-team field with three straight wins, Far Eastern meets Santo Tomas in the mainer at 4 p.m.

Ateneo, which broke a two-game losing spell by downing Santo Tomas, 69-65 last July 20, tackles NU at 2 p.m.

The lone junior action pits the Ateneo Eaglets against the NU Bullpups at 11 a.m. The Eaglets, last year's losing finalists, carry a 1-1 record, while the Bullpups are still winless in two games.

Composed mostly of players from the Viva Mineral Water, which finished runner-up in the PBL Unity Cup, the Tamaraws will enjoy tremendous manpower advantage over the Tigers, who rely mainly on the sweetshooting duo of Derick Hubalde and Jemal Vizcarra.

Gerard Jones, Cesar Catli and Rhagnee Sinco have been playing with intensity for coach Koy Banal.

Ateneo lost its first two games against University of the East and Far Eastern, respectively, but the win over Santo Tomas should serve as inspiration for the Eagles to continue their winning ways.

Meanwhile, Adamson's Baby Falcons won their second straight game with a 78-68 triumph over defending champion UP-Integrated School last Thursday. The Preps dropped to 1-2.

In the other game, the UE Pages stopped the two-game winning run of La Salle Bengals with a 75-67 win. The Pages are now 1-1.

Dennis U. Eroa

Free throw hex at Loyola gym

By Dennis U. Eroa

CALL it the great Loyola Gym free throw mystery?

After two playing days, UAAP followers, including veteran coaches, seem at a loss why players just couldn't sink their free throws at the Blue Eagles homecourt.

Indeed, this is surprising. The free throw is supposed to be the easiest shot in the game, but this isn't so based on statistics of the four varsity games played at Loyola so far.

Even defending champion Ateneo suffered from the free throw hex in beating University of Santo Tomas, 69-65, in front of its screaming fans last Sunday.

The Eagles, with pesky defender Badjie del Rosario sinking only 2 of 9 attempts, wound up with 9 conversions out of 28 free throws for a 32-percent clip against the 12 of 23 or 52 percent registered by the Tigers.

Far Eastern, which dominated National University in the first game, 71-49, also struggled with a 20 of 33 or 60-percent mark. NU went 14 of 28 or 50 percent.

A day earlier, University of the East and Adamson also played as if they just came from a bad night's sleep.

The Warriors, who won 74-61, shot 50 percent only because two players—Adrian Ronquillo and Rommel Nino Canaleta—were able to shoot free throws.

Ronquillo and Canaleta both split their charities.

Dennis U. Eroa

CONFIDENT KOREANS: South Korea's Yonsei University basketball team arrives at the Naia yesterday out to fare well in the Samsung PBA Invitational championship which starts tomorrow. The Koreans, led by coach Kim Nam-kee, play the Red Bull Barakos in Sunday's second game. ROGER MARGALLO

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GAB clearance for Torion

JIMWELL Torion will be playing this Sunday after all.

The Red Bull Barako playmaker yesterday regained his license to play from the Games and Amusements Board based on a resolution from the three-man board headed by GAB chairman Eduardo Villanueva.

The board found no reason to prevent Torion from playing again in the PBA according to Villanueva, who added the flashy Cebuano guard had religiously complied with the requirement for his reinstatement by undergoing a rehabilitation and drug counseling program slapped for first-time offenders.

Torion, who was suspended indefinitely by the PBA after testing positive for prohibited drugs three months ago, will now rejoin his teammates when Red Bull faces South Korea's Yonsei University on Sunday in the main game of the Samsung-PBA Invitational championship at the Astrodome.

The 5-foot-9 Torion underwent a month-long drug counseling in a Makati City rehabilitation center before PBA Commissioner Noli Eala evaluated his status and lifted the suspension.

June Navarro

NATHANIEL Cruz of the Mapua Cardinals (left) is restrained by his teammates following an altercation with San Beda's Michael Casino during yesterday's game. Both players were thrown out. RUDY ESPERAS

Lions roar as Bughao gives . . .

From page A19

the exciting finish, dropped to 4-3 behind the 4-2 marks of idle Letran and Jose Rizal.

Leomar Najorda fired 30 points and Chris Baluyot added 16 as defending champion San Sebastian clobbered College of St. Benilde, 84-73, to tie the Cardinals while sending the Blazers to their seventh straight loss.

"*Bago pa magsimula ang* game *alam ko na mananalo kami kaya walang* pressure *sa akin ang mga* free throws. (I knew that we're going to win so there's no pressure for me at the free throw line)," said the supremely confident 21-year-old Bughao, a rookie playmaker and younger brother of former PBA player Derrick.

Christian Guevarra, Jeff Gonzales, Hermes Sumalinog, Roby David and Raymond Dula joined hands as the Cardinals slowly chopped away at the Lions' lead in the second half.

Sumalinog's triple from the corner tied the count for the first time at 67 but the Cardinals lost their momentum as Jeffrey Martin flubbed three straight three-point attempts in the final minute.

Compounding the woes of the hard-luck Cardinals was the early ejection of sophomore Nat Cruz, who almost came to blows with San Beda's Michael Casino as tempers flared. Both players were thrown out.

The Mendiola-based team actually scored a twin kill as the Cubs swept the first round at the expense of the Robins, 92-86, in the first game.

In the nightcap, the San Sebastian Staglets edged the La Salle Greenies, 78-77, to register their fifth win in seven games.

The pre-game favorite Greenies dropped to 4-3.

Playmaker James Vincent Martinez topscored with 23 points and Rogemar Menor added 22 as the unbeaten Red Cubs zoomed to their seventh straight victory.

The Robins, just like the Cardinals, fell to 4-3.

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs PCU (jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—UPHR vs JRU (srs/jrs)

SCORES:

First game (jrs)

SBC 92—Martinez 23, Menor 22, Taganas 11, Tecson 10, Paredes 9, Tirona 7, Talamayan 5, Ferrer 3, Castillo 2.

MIT 86—Garcia 19, Tabaquero 16, Galinato 14, Del Rosario 11, Ocampo 10, Aguilar 9, Penafiel 5, Marquez 2.

Quarters: 25-22, 53-43, 75-63, 92-86

Second game (srs)

SBC 85—Cordero 23, Bughao 23, Paterno 11, Cruz 9, Bombeo 8, Ong 4, Apape 3, Casino 2, Hudencial 2, Angeles 0, Arbole 0.

MIT 82—Guevarra 16, Gonzales 14, Sumalinog 11, Dula 10, Cruz 8, Martin 8, Salud 8, Veranga 5, David 2, Co 0, Del Rosario 0.

Quarters: 28-15, 49-41, 67-62, 85-82.

Third game (srs)

SSC-R 84—Najorda 30, Baluyot 16, Uy 10, Gonzales 7, Moore 7, Aguilar 4, Legarde 4, Maneclang 2, Vicente 2, Lim 2, Estole 0, Alcaraz 0.

CSB 73—Magpayo 31, Sanidad 10, U. Reyes 8, Capati 7, Good 7, V. Reyes 4, Mendoza 3, Orbeta 3, Pagulo 0, Ang 0.

Quarters: 19-17, 41-44, 63-54, 84-73

Zaganas seeks 2nd win over RP-born Goodson

IFBA minimum-weight champ Vaia "Vicious" Zaganas will return to the ring today as she takes on Philippine-born Sarah Rama Jones-Goodson in a 6-round grudge rematch at the Creek Nation Indian Gaming Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Goodson is the first and only female pro fighter from the Philippines.

The Zaganas-Goodson fight is the co-main event to Zahir Raheem's bout against former world title challenger Augustin Lorenzo.The event, which is promoted by Holden Promotions of Tony Holden, will also feature young prospect Allen "True Dream" Green, who will go up against tough Tyrone Jackson.

The 28-year-old Zaganas (9-2, 4 KO's), a Canadian fighting out of Las Vegas, Nevada, won her first meeting with Goodson (7-12, 2 KO's) via an 8th round TKO on June 15 last year. She wants to win even more convincingly this time as Goodson has been claiming that Zaganas prevailed in their first fight due to the referee's interference.

"I really shouldn't be giving her a rematch. But I dislike her, and she has a big mouth. She complained that the referee (Russell Mora) caused her to lose the fight the last time even though I was beating her up. We'll see what happens," Zaganas, who trains at the Authentic Boxing Club in Las Vegas under trainers Chris Ben and Gil Martinez, told the INQUIRER.

The 29-year-old Goodson, born in Lomboy, Banawa, Cebu, is nicknamed "Thrilla in Manila." She holds the record as the first and only female professional fighter from the Philippines. She is currently based in Paris, Arkansas with husband Stacy, their one-year-old son Sergio and their newborn baby.

Goodson's first bout against Zaganas turned out to be ugly, as the Filipina fighter was reportedly using dirty tactics and, worse, in a highly despicable act, left the boxing ring without even congratulating Zaganas for the win.

In the third round, referee Russell Mora slapped a one-point deduction on Zaganas for excessive holding, then deducted another point in the eighth for her wrestling tactics. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

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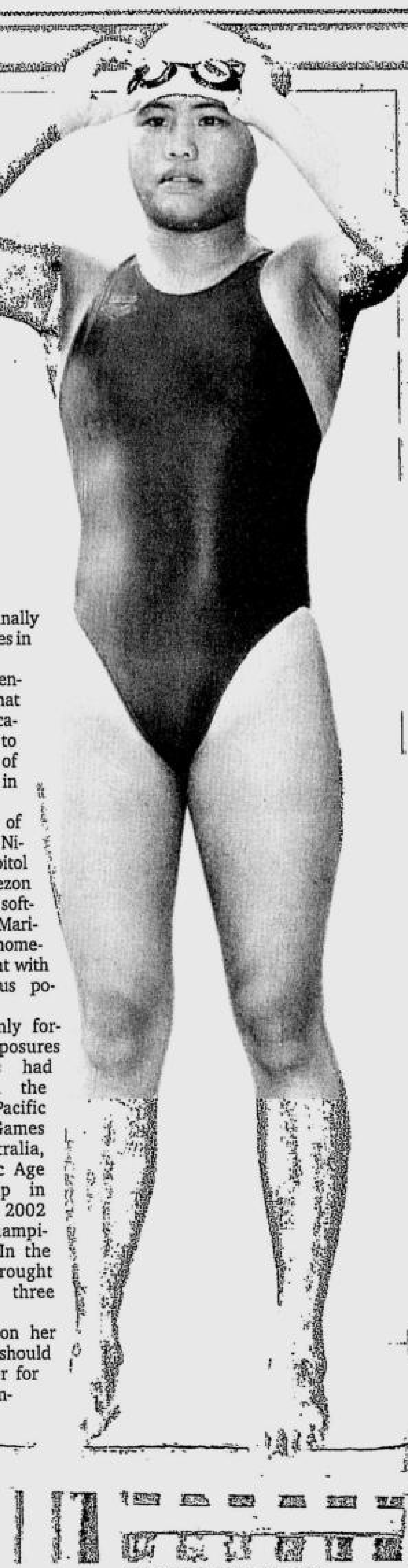
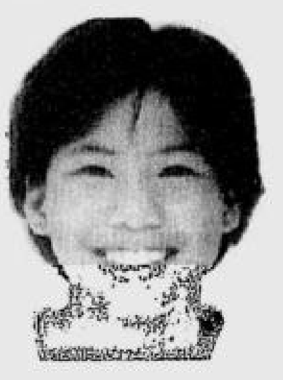
Poveda lass creates ripple in SEA Games tryouts



SHE'S incredibly formidable at 14, one darling of a record-breaker in the pool.

Meet Maria Georgina "Marichi" Gandionco, an outstanding first-year high school student at Poveda, star of the recent swimming tryouts for the Southeast Asian Games at the Rizal Memorial pool.

Staking her claim to a berth in the Vietnam SEA Games, Marichi swam in five events and returned career-best clockings in each of them.



In her most impressive showing in the tryouts, Marichi beat Busan Asian Gamer Gem Ong in the latter's preserve, the 100-meter freestyle, with a time of 1 minute 1.87 seconds. Ong did 1:03.00.

In the 400m freestyle, Marichi equaled the national record of 4:30.69 held by internationalist Liza Danila.

Her upset of Danila did not stop her from making heads turn at the wavy, notoriously slow Rizal Memorial pool. Marichi timed 2:11.31 in the 200m freestyle and then an eye-popping 1:06.76 in the 100m butterfly.

And since Marichi considers the 200m butterfly as her best event, there was high expectation among people at poolside of a showdown between her and Asian Gamer Luica Dacanay, the record holder.

But there was a hitch. Dacanay was not on the roster of tryout hopefuls that day.

The absence of a stiff challenge notwithstanding, Marichi plodded on and won by over 30 meters against her nearest rival.

Most importantly, she timed 2:22.97—just .67 of a second outside Dacanay's national record established against classy competition in the Busan Asiad.

With the guidance of coach Aris Lim, the comely teenager, who competes out of the Ayala Harpoons Swimming Club, has finally made it to the big leagues in the local pool.

There is talk among enthusiasts in the sport that Marichi has the dedication and credentials to become the queen of Philippine swimming in the near future.

The youngest child of businessman Oscar and Nini Gandionco of Capitol Hills, Quezon City, the soft-spoken Marichi is a homebred talent with tremendous potential.

The only foreign exposures she has had were in the 2000 Pacific School Games in Australia, the 2001 Asia-Pacific Age Group Championship in Hong Kong and the 2002 Asean Age Group Championship in Bangkok. In the latter event, she brought home a silver and three bronze medals.

Lim believes that on her current form, Marichi should be a strong contender for the outstanding swimmer award in the Asean Age Group, which the country is hosting in September.

With five months to go before the SEA Games in Vietnam, Marichi is seen as a gold medal prospect for the Philippine team, at least in the 200m butterfly.

According to Lim, Marichi should be peaking soon. And by the time the country hosts the 2005 SEAG, she would be formidable.

"My parents and coach have done so much for me. It's time I paid them back with some good swim," the teenager said after her brilliant weekend.

A STAR IS BORN: Marichi Gandionco is peaking nicely for the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Pacquiao's turn to step down, says challenger

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES, California—He's not afraid even of the diablo so why should he fear the champ, who happens to be only human. If you've got no cojones, swore 24-year-old Emmanuel Lucero, then you've no business entering the boxing ring.

Lucero squares off with Manny Pacquiao in a bid to steal the Philippines' lone world boxing title on Saturday (Sunday in Manila) armed with a lot of pride, ambition and toughness.

His chiseled face glowing under the noonday sun in front of the Grand Olympic Auditorium, Lucero did admit he has a lot of respect for Pacquiao during yesterday's presentation to the press of the card bannered by the elimination rumble between hometown hero Fernando Vargas and Fitz Vanderpool.

Pacquiao, said the good-looking challenger, is a good fighter, a great champion.

"But he has earned much money, mucho dinero, and that's enough" Lucero quipped.

Pacquiao has had his time, Lucero added, insisting "now is my time."

Time to what? Pacquiao retorted when the INQUIRER next told him of the challenger's taunt.

"Maybe it's his time to lose," Pacquiao, wearing a gray LA Laker baseball hat, said with a dry smile.

Lucero, born in Mexico City and raised in the tough Bronx area in New York, has remained undefeated in 22 pro fights. He said he was a street fighter and has been fighting since he was a kid of six.

It was a noonday rich in bragging, dares and taunts before the media and an expectant crowd that had to be told all tickets in the 7,000-capacity 1924-vintage Grand Olympic had been sold out as early as two weeks back.

Lucero, son of a street fighter from Mexico City, dazzled the crowd with a flashy sing-song greeting in Spanish.

He came well prepared for his number.

Pacquiao, no match to the challenger in handling the microphone, spoke briefly in broken English, like a shy school grader who had been caught unprepared for the day's recitation.

Of course, Pacquiao, 24, has prepared a lot, lot harder for the real thing—the fourth defense of his International Boxing Federation superbantamweight title.

One good thing going for the champ is that he discovered the mess caused by rumors that he was suffering from hepatitis B only yesterday morning, when the issue had already been put to rest after the California State Athletic Commission issued a clearance for the champ to fight.

After his handlers had succeeded in keeping the disturbing news from Pacquiao, he finally got wind of the mess when he called up home yesterday morning and was asked by relatives in GenSan if his title fight had been cancelled.

"If he had been informed of the brewing trouble earlier, his rhythm and regimen would have been wrecked," said his manager, Rod Nazario.

Anyway, suspicions lingered yesterday that the unfounded news about Pacquiao testing positive for hepa B had been authored by people from the rival camp.

Pacquiao himself smiled off the issue, had his final workout at the Wild Card Gym, and was scheduled for one foodless final night before today's weigh-in.

Later in the press conference, boxing broadcast great Larry Merchant approached Pacquiao and advised him not to hurry in going up the featherweight division, where the Filipino ring idol said he wanted to take on the great Marco Antonio Barrera.

"You don't have to tell those featherweight greats you can beat them, just do your thing good, win your big bouts in the 122-pound division, and it will next be your time," Merchant said in all candor.

Merchant, said to be an admirer of Pacquiao, also

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PACQUIA

Tight PSC budget stymies NSA plans for Vietnam

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission yesterday expressed confidence that the national sports associations now fully support and understand the agency with regard to its policies, particularly its subsidy to the NSAs.

This after PSC chair Eric Buhain wrapped up a two-day dialogue with the presidents and representatives of 36 NSAs where the PSC chief announced that all their concerns—mostly monetary—will have to be reviewed to shift the focus of disbursements to the Southeast Asian Games campaign.

Sources said the agency called up the meeting because its monthly subsidy from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation was slashed by one-half.

The PSC had earlier scrapped three major grassroots development projects to save money for the Vietnam Games.

The PSC gets an average of P35 million monthly from Pagcor representing 5 percent of its net income, but it won't get that amount this month due to a dip in Pagcor's income. The agency also gets funds from other sources through the National Sports Development Fund, but Pagcor remains its biggest benefactor.

NSDF funds are used to finance trips of athletes to compete or train abroad, hire foreign coaches and purchase equipment.

The PSC budget from the General Appropriations Act has been slashed this year to P90 million from as much as P300 million the previous years.

Still, Buhain said the PSC hopes to cushion the impact of meager funds on the Vietnam SEA Games campaign where the country hopes to win at least 40 gold medals and place third overall.

Close to 500 athletes will be seeing action in the Dec. 5-13 Games. By early estimate, the PSC would be spending P70,000 for each delegation member to get to and compete in Vietnam.

That is apart from the money the PSC had earmarked for the year-round training of athletes.

"But they are very supportive and I think they understand our financial situation," Buhain told the INQUIRER. "We will be meeting with them one-on-one next week to help us prioritize their needs."

Just the same, the NSAs felt sad over the unexpected cut in the Pagcor subsidy.

Sepak takraw association president Mario Tanchangco said they were dismayed by the news but they have no choice but to support the PSC.

Putting woes hound Rosales in France

ROSALES tees off in the third round of the Michelob Light Open in Virginia in this file photo. REUTERS

THERE seems no end to the putting miseries of Jenny Rosales.

Three costly mistakes on the putting surface weakened J-Ro's winning chances in the Evian Ladies Masters in Evian, France with a round of one-over-par 73 on Thursday (Friday in Manila) pulling her down to a share of 24th place.

The 24-year-old Rosales, who grabbed a tie for seventh after a 70 on Wednesday, three-putted the fifth, 11th and 12th holes to fall eight shots behind solo leader American Rosie Jones at the halfway mark of the $2.1-million tourney.

Jones fired a 68 for 135, nine-under par at the Masters Golf Club course, inching ahead of Mexican rookie Lorena Ochoa, who shot a 70 for 136.

Even the change of environment from the LPGA to the European Tour couldn't fire up Jenny's putter.

Rosales is ranked 13th in the LPGA in hitting greens in regulation, going close to 70 percent each time she sets out on the course. Unfortunately, she's not even among the top 100 in putting as she is ranked 101st with her average of 30.27 putts per round.

Significantly, Jones may not be as strong and accurate as Rosales or Ochoa but Rosie's No. 1 in putting with her 28.3 norm against the 30.27 of Rosales.

Among those sharing 24th with Rosales was Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin who climbed all the way from 54th with her round of 68.

They were two strokes ahead of defending champion Annika Sorenstam of Sweden (73) and five up on newly-crowned US Women's Open champion Hilary Lunke.

"This is obviously not where I want to be," Sörenstam said. "Sometimes you just need some breaks to get a momentum going, and I'm not getting any."

Overnight co-leader Julie Inkster (72) and Sophie Gustafson (67) were tied for third at 136. *Jong Arcano*

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 035

Annika mania

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
☐ True / ○ False: Annika Sorenstam was born and raised in Stockholm, Sweden.

2 > 5 Pts.
☐ Annika's first sports passion was not golf, but:
- ○ skiing
- ○ tennis

3 > 7 Pts.
☐ Annika's first major win came in 1995 in her very first stint in the:
- ○ British Women's Open
- ○ LPGA Championship
- ○ US Women's Open

4 > 10 Pts.
☐ With whom did Annika team up in winning the two-on-two Battle at Bighorn, the LPGA's first prime-time event, in 2001?
- ○ Tiger Woods
- ○ David Duval
- ○ Sergio Garcia

5 > 15 Pts.
☐ How many tournaments did Annika win from 1997 to 1999, making her the winningest LPGA player of the 90's?
- ○ 10
- ○ 11
- ○ 12
- ○ 13

6 > 25 Pts.
☐ What product did Annika endorse in her first U.S. television ad?
- ○ Callaway Big Bertha driver
- ○ Odyssey 2-Ball putter
- ○ Nike golf shoes
- ○ Michelob Light beer

7 > 30 Pts.
☐ Maiden swing: How old was Annika when she first started playing golf?

ANSWERS A24

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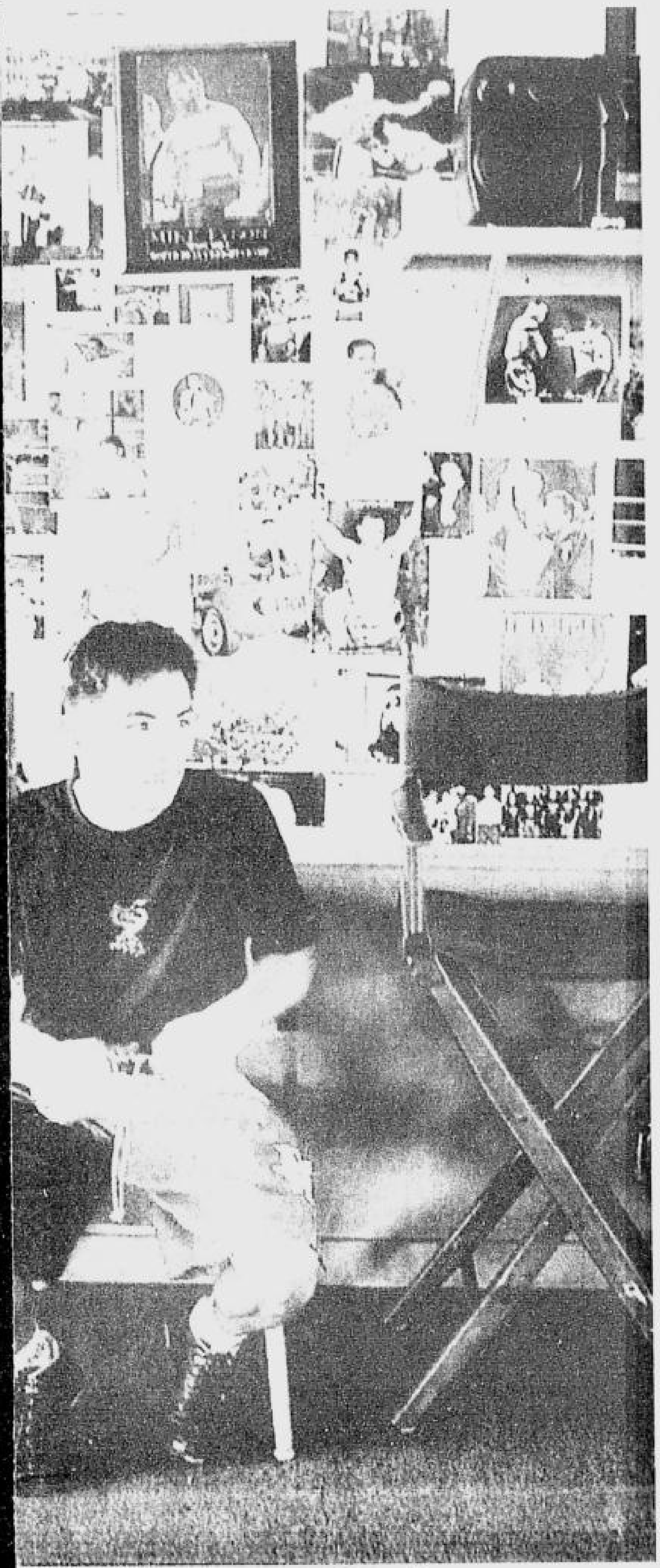


D takes a break during training at Freddie Roach's gym. BONG MALABANAN

said the champ should now go Ayala, instead of Johnny Tapia, latter belongs to the past.

the participants in the program eir pieces, organizers proceed- oto session.

nd Vanderpool met and stared h other in a mock square-off on

was the turn of Pacquiao and o hardly displayed any animosity and behaved as though they had been friends for long although they met only for the first time.

After sizing up the scene, one seasoned boxing eye, veteran of many international match-ups, later noted that Lucero, who stands two inches shorter than the five-foot-six Pacquiao, did not seem in the class and level of the RP ring sensation.

"I fear a mismatch," he said without elaborating.

Bumbling Bryant

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE DEBATE on whether Kobe Bryant committed rape or not has now become one of the hottest topics to hit town.

Did he or did he not?

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by a 19-year-old woman, who claimed Bryant raped her last month. As alleged by the woman, the crime was committed while Bryant was awaiting knee surgery in Vail, Colorado.

The woman worked at the front desk of the hotel where Bryant was staying.

What struck me as strange was, the woman herself brought food to the room where Bryant was billeted.

If true, it's the first time I learn of such a thing.

Don't waiters/waitresses do room service stuff and not front-desk personnel?

Rape is the hardest crime to prove.

First, there should be bruises from either of the two—or both of them—to establish the presence of force, or a semblance of it. Force is a primary element in establishing guilt in rape. Struggle is part of force.

Second, in the absence of witnesses, which is normal in rape cases, the testimony of the victim is crucial. In a rape case, the victim is the witness herself.

Before I say Bryant could be guilty of rape, I need to pose the following questions:

Was he drunk, or high on drugs, at the time the sex act happened? Remember, Bryant. only admitted to committing adultery and not rape and therefore, there was sex between the two.

If the answer is yes, then Bryant could be guilty as charged. Bryant, known to be a decent man, could not have done it if he weren't drunk or under the influence of drugs.

Is Bryant a troubled man before it happened? I mean, has he had brushes with the law, as in the case of Mike Tyson before Tyson was charged with rape?

None that I know of. In contrast, Tyson was a recidivist, a law offender if not a habitual civil society scoundrel, when he was charged with rape some years back.

When news of Bryant's rape case broke out, many were stunned. In contrast, when Tyson was in the same boat, almost everybody accepted it instantly as gospel truth. The collective groan was, "There goes the maniac again."

When Tyson was convicted of rape, the collective wish was, "May he rot in jail." The unforgiving horde said, "May his soul burn in hell." Tyson had family problems here and there; he even sent his former wife, the actress Robin Givens, crashing through a glass-paneled wall with one punch to the face during a simple lovers' spat.

But Kobe Bryant?

He has a beautiful family—a gorgeous wife of 21, who has delivered their first child only six months ago.

He has multimillion dollar endorsements, enough to give him and his family five lifetimes.

He is a five-time NBA All-Star; the world is at his feet even as he is only 24 years old.

Would he throw away all that for one mad fling with a total stranger? Using force yet?

We know a demon when we see one. Tyson's one.

But Bryant?

He said he has sinned: Adultery. I give him credit for that, the way I give credit to Clinton when he admitted committing an "inappropriate act" in the infamous Lewinsky sex case. In this troubled world, there are men who still own up to a wrongdoing.

Rape? To believe that Bryant did that is to say I believe in Tyson not raping that beauty queen thousands of nights back.

But this is not to say I have totally absolved Bryant. Off hand, I'm just saying it's hard to picture Bryant as a rapist. He might have been framed up, hustled into a corner by schemers out to squeeze him dry of his wealth.

Boy, if Bryant did it for kicks, what a one-night stand it's turning out to be for the Los Angeles Laker.

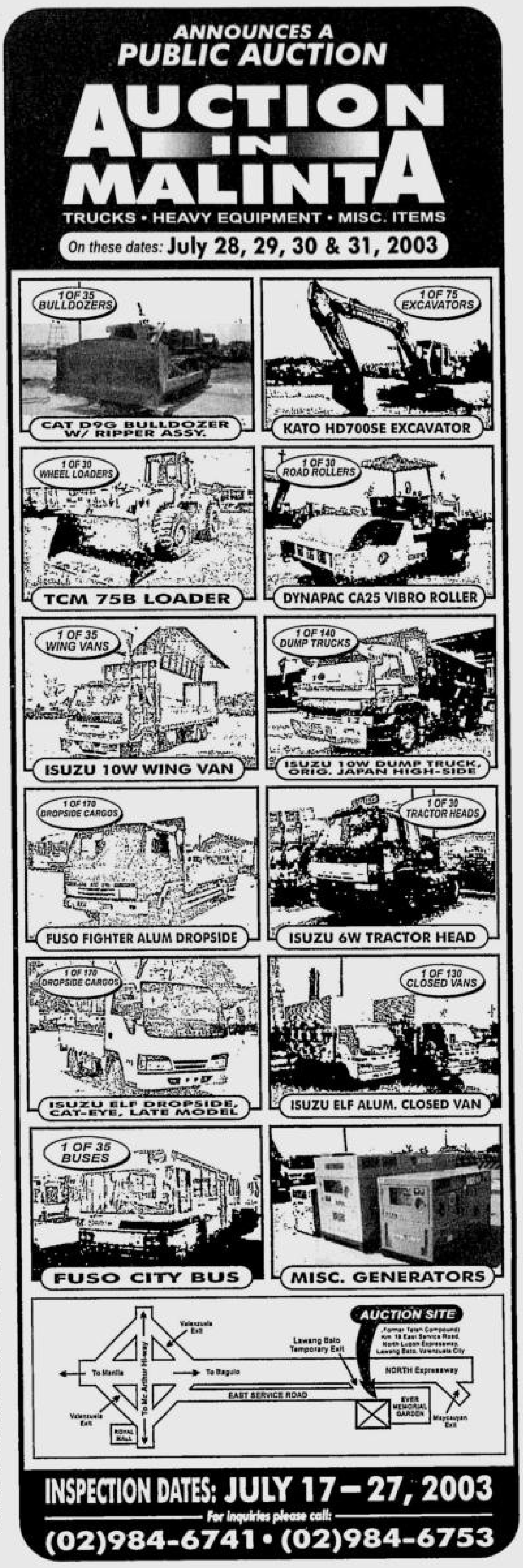
What was that line again by way of a warning to the promiscuous?

For a few minutes of pleasure comes a lifetime of hell.

It seems it's turning out that way for Bryant. Rape or no rape.

***

FASTBREAK. Renato Dychangco, the tireless director of the National Golf Association of the Philippines from the Visayas, will have his hands full today when the orientation on handicapping is conducted at the picturesque Alta Vista in Cebu City. Afterward, the NGAP board will hold a meeting starting at 1 this afternoon, with NGAP president Rod Feliciano presiding. I was thinking, if the cities of Davao and Baguio were able to host past Philippine Opens with so much success, why not Cebu, too? Just a thought, fellas.



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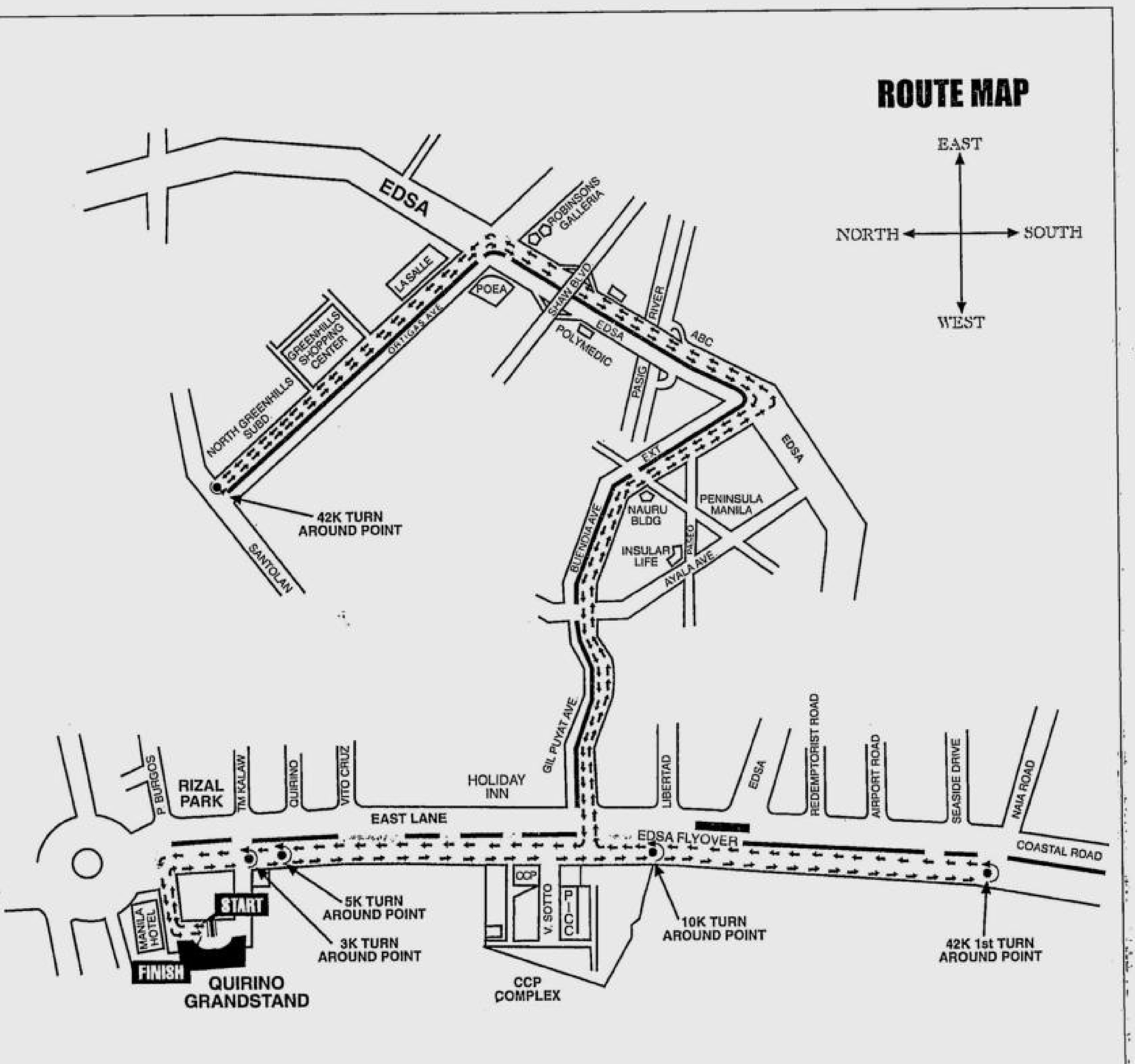

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Lance rides safely for crucial 18th stage

BORDEAUX, France—Lance Armstrong stayed safe and on top of the overall standings through the 17th stage of the Tour de France.

Armstrong and archrival Jan Ullrich finished grouped together in Thursday's 187km, hill-less stage but their sights are already set on Saturday's individual time trial when they will both race against the clock. That stage is expected to decide the winner of cycling's most prestigious race.

Armstrong, heavily favored to win the race, holds a 67-second lead over Ullrich.

Thursday's stage was won by Servais Knaven, the first Dutch rider to take a stage this year.

Armstrong achieved his aim of staying safe, out of any crashes. His US Postal Service team, racing in a long line at the front of the main pack of riders, guided him toward the finish in Bordeaux, southwestern France's wine capital.

Armstrong, the four-time champion pursuing Spanish great Miguel Indurain's record of five successive wins, placed 28th, just behind Ullrich, in 27th. They finished in the same time, 8 minutes and 6 seconds behind Knaven, meaning Armstrong preserved his lead with just three days of racing to go.

Ullrich, a silver medalist in the event at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, is hoping for a repeat of his crushing defeat of Armstrong in a time trial last Friday, when he bit a whooping 96 seconds off Armstrong's overall lead, setting the stage for a grippingly close final week in the three-week 3,406km clockwise slog around France.

"I want to win this Tour. I have never been so close to Armstrong. I feel how my top form is coming," Ullrich, runner-up to Armstrong in 2000 and 2001, said in a posting on his website this week. *AP*

BADEN Cooke (left) of Australia outsprints Lotto team rider Robbie McEwen (center) and Telekom's Erik Zabel of Germany. REUTERS

Horry, Mercer, Turkoglu to Spurs

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—The National Basketball Association champions added a five-time champion Thursday as the San Antonio Spurs signed unrestricted free agent forward Robert Horry away from the Los Angles Lakers.

Terms were not disclosed, but the San Antonio Express News reported it is a two-year deal worth 10.5 million dollars.

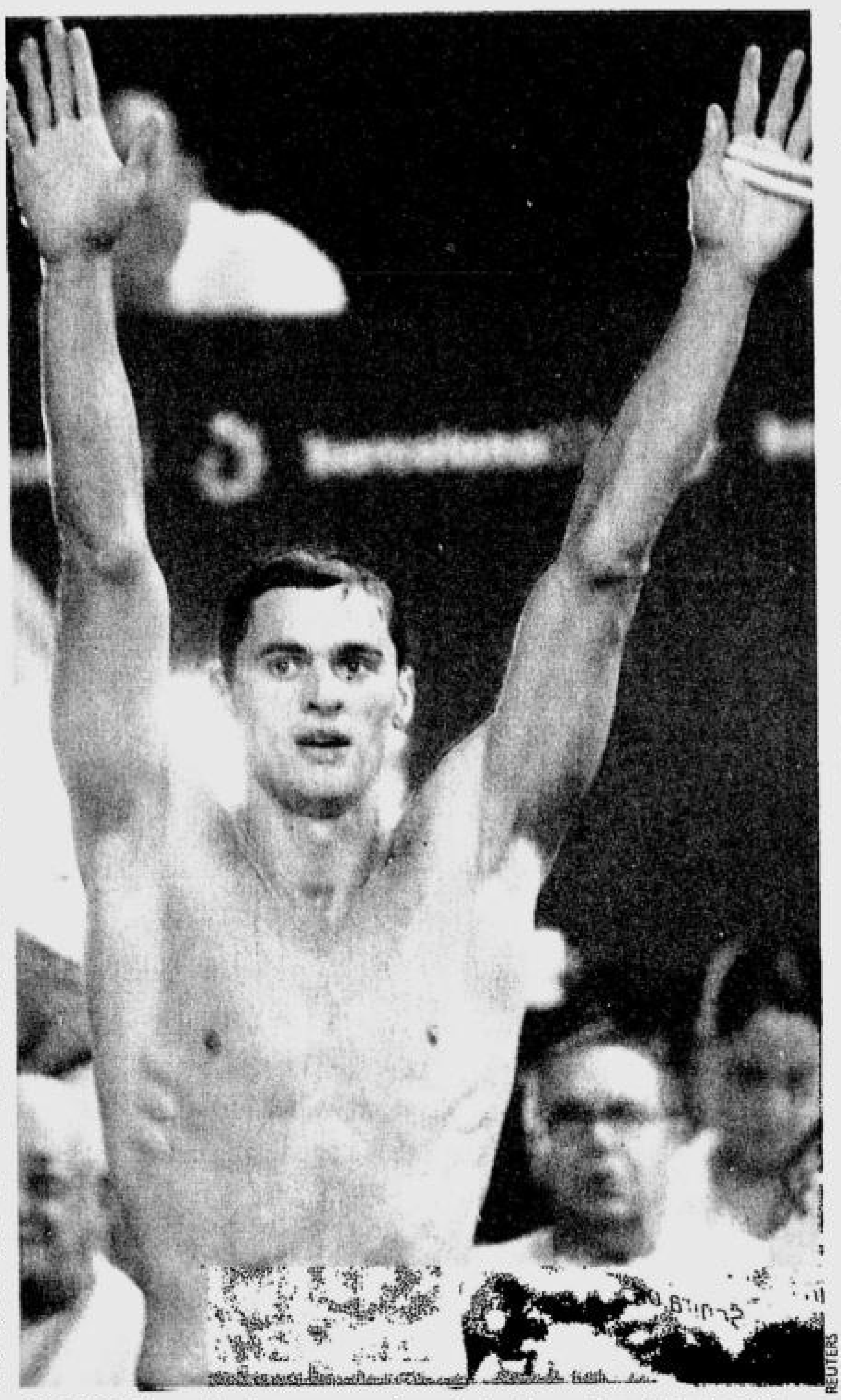
The signing capped a busy day for the Spurs, who obtained guards Hedo Turkoglu and Ron Mercer as part of a three-way trade with the Sacramento Kings and Indiana Pacers.

Horry spent the last six and a half seasons with the Lakers, winning consecutive championships from 2000-02. He also won back-to-back titles with the Houston Rockets in 1994-95, joining Steve Kerr and Scottie Pippen as the only active players with as many as five championship rings.

"Robert Horry is a proven winner," Spurs general manager RC Buford said. "He doesn't care about personal accolades. His only concern is winning. There is a reason he has five championship rings." Horry, who turns 33 on August 25, averaged 6.5 points, 6.4 rebounds and 2.9 assists in 80 games last season.

"He does everything well," Buford said. "He can defend, he can run the floor and—as we all know—he can hit big shots." Horry's biggest shot came in Game Four of the 2002 Western Conference finals against the Kings when he hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer to even the best-of-seven series at two wins apiece.

In 1995-96, Horry became one of two players in NBA history to collect 100 3-pointers, 100 steals and 100 blocked shots in the same season. *AFP*



REUTERS

RUSSIA'S Alexander Popov waves after winning the gold medal in the 100 metres freestyle at the 10th World Swimming Championships in Barcelona.

Popov makes classy encore

Russian veteran upstages Thorpe, Hoogenband; Phelps, Kitajima strike

BARCELONA—The old Russian can still swim fast and the young American just keeps getting faster.

Alexander Popov upstaged world record-holder Pieter van den Hoogenband and Ian Thorpe in winning the 100-meter freestyle at the World Swimming Championships on Thursday.

A few minutes later, 18-year-old Michael Phelps improved on his own world record in the 200 individual medley.

The 31-year-old Popov won gold in 48.42 seconds, forcing the 25-year-old Dutch Olympic champion to settle for silver (48.68) and 20-year-old Thorpe to satisfy himself with bronze (48.77).

Popov, who also won the 100 free at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, received the loudest cheers of the championships.

Popov still holds the world mark in the 50 free.

Phelps bettered his own world record in the semifinals of the 200 IM, setting a new mark of 1:57.52. His old record of 1:57.94 was set in Santa Clara, California last month.

On Tuesday, Phelps bettered his own world record in the 200 butterfly semifinals and followed it up with a gold-medal form on Wednesday in the final.

Earlier, Kosuke Kitajima won gold with a world record-time in the 200 breaststroke.

It was the Japanese swimmer's second world record. On Monday, Kitajima set a new mark in the 100 breaststroke.

Kitajima's time of 2:09.42 was .10 seconds faster than the old world record set by Russia's Dmitri Komornikov last month.

After five days of swimming events, six world records have been set. Kitajima and Phelps have two each.

Another world record—the oldest in women's swimming — nearly fell in the women's 800 freestyle relay.

The US team of Lindsay Benko, Rachel Komisarz, Rhiannon Jeffrey and Diana Munz won gold in 7:55.70, just .23 seconds behind the mark set by East Germany in 1987.

Poland's Otylia Jedrzejczak won gold in the women's 200 fly in 2:07.56, nearly two seconds off her world record time. *AP*

ELKA Graham, a member of Australia's 4x200 metres freestyle relay team which won the silver medals, is carried away after collapsing during the medal ceremony Thursday. REUTERS

Embattled Kobe to miss pre-Olympics tilt

LOS ANGELES—As expected, Kobe Bryant won't play for the US team in next month's Olympic qualifying tournament in Puerto Rico, although his agent said Thursday the Los Angeles Lakers star intends to compete in the Athens Games in 2004.

There was no mention of the felony sexual assault charge Bryant faces in the statement issued by agent Rob Pelinka. It said only that Bryant won't participate in the qualifying tournament "due to rehabilitation work from his recent arthroscopic shoulder and knee surgeries."

"Kobe, however, remains 100-percent committed to representing the United States at the 2004 Games in Athens," the statement said.

Bryant underwent surgery on his right shoulder June 12 in New York, and had knee surgery in Colorado on July 1—a day after a 19-year-old woman claimed he assaulted her.

Bryant was charged last Friday. He proclaimed his innocence during a nationally televised news conference although he did acknowledge having what he called consensual sex with the woman.

The 24-year-old Bryant is free on bail and is scheduled to appear in court Aug. 6.

The US team will practice Aug. 10-18 in New York and the qualifying tournament begins Aug. 24 in San Juan. The top three teams advance to Athens.

Among those on the US roster are Tim Duncan, Allen Iverson, Tracy McGrady and Ray Allen.

USA Basketball will select Bryant's replacement for the qualifying tournament. *AP*

Bonds blasts 33rd homer on 39th b'day

SAN FRANCISCO, California—Barry Bonds gave himself a birthday present Thursday—another milestone home run.

On his 39th birthday, the San Francisco slugger led off the bottom of the ninth inning with a home run as the Giants rallied for a 3-2 triumph over the Arizona Diamondbacks and opened an 11-game lead in the National League West.

With one swing, Bonds gave San Francisco its season-high eighth straight win, sending the first pitch from lefthander Mike Myers (0-1) over the center field fence.

The blast was Bonds' 470th as a Giant, moving him past Willie McCovey for sole possession of first place on San Francisco's all-time list.

The homer was Bonds' seventh career walk-off blast, fifth as a Giant and first since April 5, 2002. After his 646th career homer and major league-leading 33rd this season, the crowd of 42,666 remained standing for several minutes chanting, "Barry, Barry," and Bonds obliged by stepping out of the dugout and waving.

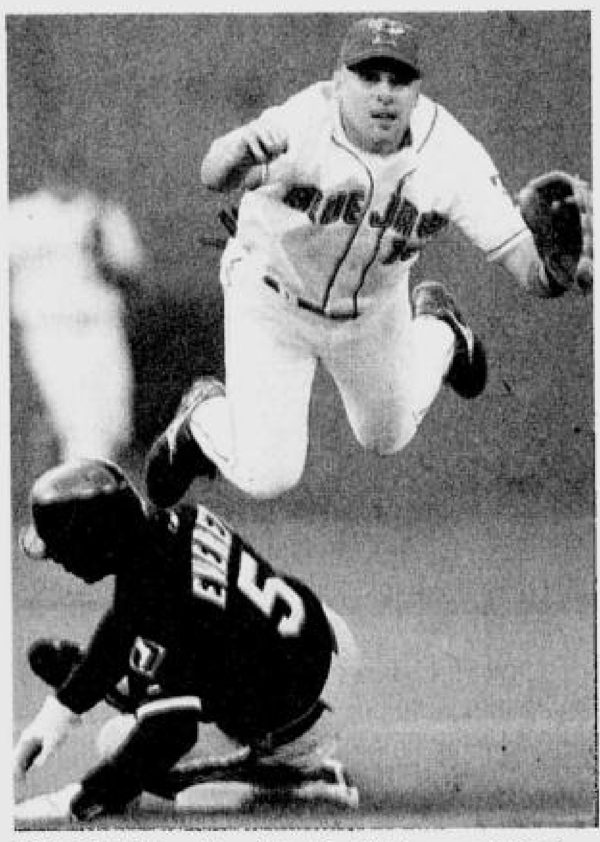
However, he departed to attend to his father, Bobby, who is battling lung cancer.

"My dad's in the hospital," Bonds said. "I've got to go." The home run also was Bonds' second on his birthday. The other came in 1989, when he totaled 19 in 159 games for Pittsburgh.

In New York, Baltimore sent Roger Clemens to his quickest exit in a year, with Jeff Conine and B.J. Surhoff hitting early home runs to back Sidney Ponson and lead the Orioles over the New York Yankees 5-3.

Clemens (9-7), in the final season of his 20-year career, in the major leagues, lasted just four innings, gave up nine hits and left trailing 5-0.

Ponson (14-5) tied Toronto's Roy Halladay and Atlanta's Russ Ortiz for the major league lead in victories, winning his fourth straight start since a June 30. *AFP; AP*



TORONTO shortstop Mike Bordick leaps over Carl Everett of the Chicago White Sox after throwing to first to complete a double play. REUTERS

SPORTS noodle

From page A22

ANSWERS
1. True
2. Tennis
3. US Open
4. Tiger Woods (against Karrie Webb and David Duval)
5. 12 (Twelve)
6. Michelob Light beer
7. 12 (Twelve)

SHELL SUPERBIKES

Romero tries to stay alive

WINNING a first championship is tough. But defending it is tougher.

This Nikki Romero has realized as he tries to salvage his Novice Division crown in the Shell Advance Superbike Championships tomorrow at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

The 26-year-old Romero will enter the grid with one goal in mind: Stay alive. If he fails to make the podium in any of the two races set for the day, he virtually blows away his chances of defending his title.

Obviously feeling the pressure, Romero is a struggling third in the standings with 70 points behind Miguel Bichara (133 pts) and Ralph Willscheck (109 pts).

He failed to finish the last two races due to crashes that wrecked his two Yamaha motorcycles.

"*Malas* (I was unlucky)," said the architecture graduate who is now reviewing for his board exams. "I will try to win the next two races to stay in contention."

Romero battled all odds to win the Novice title in his first year in motorcycle racing.

Having been prohibited from riding motorcycles by his parents since his childhood, this eldest son of real estate bigwig Regis Romero did everything just to be able to learn how to ride and race.

Forest Hills sustains charge; MGC, Alabang gain ground

STANDINGS

Group I: 13 Eastridge, 10 Manila Golf, 7 Southwoods, 3 Highlands, 2 Mimosa

Group II: 15 Forest Hills, 12 Alabang, 8 Valley, 4 John Hay, 3 Wack Wack, 3 Orchard

Group III: 11 Royal Northwoods, 10 Sherwood Hills, 10 Riviera, 9 Canlubang, 9 Mt. Malarayat, 3 Sta. Elena

FOREST Hills stepped closer to the first automatic semifinals berth after blasting Wack Wack to bits, 4-0, even as defending champion Manila Golf Club and Alabang boosted their own drives with impressive victories in Federation Golf League matches recently in various venues.

Forest Hills, the 2001 champion which is the only unbeaten team in the field of 15 exclusive clubs, won for the fifth time in eight outings aside from three draws and increased its total to 15 points including an extra point for the sweep.

Providing the key wins for Forest Hills were Jong Laput-Nonet Rodriguez in bestball, Bong Brobio-Gary Uy in high-low, Ronnie Littaua-Erning Buenaventura in aggregate and Raffy Garcia-Eding Hizon in scramble.

The tandems of Manoling Chan-Paolo Prieto, John Papa-JP Reyes and Richie Garcia-Dennis Valdes carried Manila Golf to a 3-1 bashing of host Mimosa and with Eastridge falling to Southwoods, the Group I chase remained wide open.

Jerome Delariarte-Alan Joven and Marty Ilagan-Sevi Liao took the bestball and high-low format, respectively, while Butch Brodette-Florene delos Santos salvaged the clinching draw in the aggregate format as Southwoods dealt Eastridge a 2.5-1.5 lashing.

Eastridge got stuck at 13 points in seven games with Manila Golf getting 10 points in six outings.

Southwoods remains a big threat at third with 7.

Iggy Clavecilla-Jimbo Inigo (bestball), Peter Cervantes-Caloy Coscolluela (aggregate) and Jun Galindez-King Stehmeier gave Alabang a 3-1 triumph over Valley to stay three points behind Forest Hills but with still one match unplayed.

SPORTSWATCH

Shippers cage league

THE 1ST SuperFerry Basketball Shippers League will begin at 11:30 a.m. today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Entered in the tournament spearheaded by WG&A SuperFerry are Tanduay, Aboitiz, Logistics International, Aboitiz Express, NYK, Evergreen, China Shipping, Pambato, William and Hanjin Lines.

Medical Center golfest

AN 18-hole golf tournament will highlight the first grand alumni homecoming of all graduates of the various Residency Training Program of Medical Center Manila on Aug. 4. The golfest is set at 7 a.m. at the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club course. Interested alumni may call tournament coordinator Dr. Vicente Bernardo at 0918-9165668. Interested delegates may contact Dr. Malu Mangubat at tel. 528-1173. Those interested to use the gym and pool may call Dr. Anthony Dolor at tel. 523-8131 loc. 2201, while registration for the dinner and dance at the Grand Ballroom of Pearl Manila Hotel starts at 5 p.m. under the supervision of Dr. Elizabeth Uy, tel. 522-3669. For inquiries, call the office of the Medical Director, Medical Center Manila, tel. 524-3440.

Lunas risks title vs Thai

FILIPINO OPBF No. 1 and Paba flyweight champion Rolly Lunas faces Deeden Kengkaroon of Thailand on Aug. 8 at the Mandaluyong City gymnasium. Dubbed "Bakbakan sa Mandaluyong," co-presented by the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) and LS International, with proceeds going to the Filipino Boxers' disabled fund, the Lunas-Kengkaroon battle is set for 12 rounds. In yesterday's breakfast meeting, Lunas thanked Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos and backers Ernie Yu of Family Rubbing Alcohol, Jimmy Sy of Red Bull and representatives from San Miguel Beer and Revicon.

Under-14 football

ATENEO will host the the first of several 'Football Fiestas' sponsored by the Red Ribbon Bakeshop and organized by the Philippine Football Federation tomorrow. Opening games starting at 11 a.m. pit Southridge against Xavier, Ateneo against Don Bosco, Mandaluyong Club and De la Salle Zobel against Colegio San Agustin on field 1 and San Beda against Magat Elementary School B, Don Bosco Makati against Magat Salamat ES A and La Salle Greenhills against Don Bosco Tondo United on field 2. Also entered are Claret, Lourdes and Marist. The tournament for 14 years and under will be held every Sunday, from July to September in selected pitches across Metro Manila.

Kaya, Navy dispute crown

KAYA FC battles Navy Football Club for the right to lift the "Lupoy-GNC Football Cup" on Sunday at 6 p.m. at the Nomads Sports Club in Merville, Parañaque. Kaya team manager Chris Hagedorn, whose side recently lifted the Samsung trophy will rely on strikers Aly Borromeo and Rudy del Rosario; midfielders Freddie Gonzalez (back from his Vietnam pro stint), Peter Amores and Anton del Rosario; and RP National star central defender Alvin Ocampo. Red-carded skipper Christian Lozano will not be on the pitch for the match. Navy head coach Eduard Antony will depend on striker Jimmy Doña, midfielders Loreto Kalalang and Norman Somoza and National rightback Richard Leyble.

Roligon 4-cocker today

A GUARANTEED prize of P500,000 plus a brand new motorcycle for the fastest kill champion will be up for grabs today in the "Laban O Lugon 4-Cock Derby" at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. More than 120 fights are scheduled starting at 2 p.m. Participants include two-time international derby champion William Go, Boy Marzo, Commissioner Jun Sevilla, lawyer Romero Yu, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Blandy Tolentino, Pol Estrellado, Tony Lasala, Abraham Bernales, Jun Marasigan, Dong Lacson, Dicky Lim, Nelson Uy and Butchoy Olano. Entry fee is P6,600. For details, contact 833-2275 and 833-1638.

PCC derby stakes P.6M

PASAY City Cockpit will hold a special 4-cock derby on July 30 and Aug. 1 with more than 100 entries seeing action. A whopping guaranteed prize of P600,000 and two brand new owner-type jeeps are at stake. Derby hosts are Kags Paliza and Aba Badiola who recently hosted the 2-cock ulutan (250 entries) at La Loma Cockpit. Provincial derby champions are seeing action, including Jojo Villafuerte, Oca Bermas, Nono San Pablo, Ben Barra, Vic Azana and Art Tolentino of Bicol, Jojo Caparros and Rey Magbuhos of Quezon Province. For inquiries, contact 816-6750, 843-1746 and 843-1890.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Savvi 2. Material Trick 3. Ilang Ilang Queen 4. Daytona/Road Runner 5. Game Over

Race 2—1. Kiss Me Quick 2. American Beauty 3. Aprey Special 4. Gold Honors

Race 3—1. Ouzo 2. Sunny Contender 3. Silver Story

Race 4—1. Schumacher 2. Mr. Lucas 3. Main Street 4. Maralex

Race 5—1. Cool Zam 2. Classy Babe 3. Silent Hat 4. Ongbee 5. Hinobaan Boy

Race 6—1. I Swear 2. Friendly Venture/Brusko 3. Day and Night 4. Awesome Power

Race 7—1. Hellfire 2. Gorgeous Sand 3. Apex 4. The Strategist 5. Bullish Dream

Race 8—1. Arrivederci 2. Strong Lady 3. Count Yor Blessings 4. Green Buck

Race 9—1. Kayang Kaya/Of Note 2. All for Glory 3. Mrs. Big 4. Maria Makiling/Tres Jeune 5. Hacker

Race 10—1. Ole Ole Ole 2. Capriole 3. Free Way

Race 11—1. Sandata 2. Free Again 3. Princess Jonalyn 4. Lucky El 5. Choice for Change

Race 12—1. Moneyline 2. Go Ichi 3. Graceful Ann 4. Powerhouse

Race 13—1. Sandstorm 2. Heavy Metal 3. Master Strategist 4. River Bandit 5. Despedida 6. Silver Angel

Pampanga seeks NBL semis

Game Today (C.P. Tinga Gym)
4 p.m.—Spring Cooking Oil vs Pampanga Bulls

THE PAMPANGA Bulls target the third semifinals slot against Spring Cooking Oil at 4 p.m. today in the 1st NBL National Championship at the CP Tinga Gym in Taguig.

Holding a 6-win, 5-loss card, the Bulls need to repeat over the Bulacan Oil Masters to join pacesetter M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Cebu (11-1) and MayniLa (8-4) in the semifinal round starting Aug. 10 in Cebu City.

Pampanga nipped Spring Cooking Oil, 74-72, on June 8 behind the heroics of Welihado "Pet" Duyag, who topscored with 19 points at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center in Pampanga.

A loss will send the Bulls into a three-way tie with idle Compak-Shineway-Ozamiz City and Forward Taguig with identical 6-6 records. The Fiba quotient system will be applied and under such case, the Bulls gets the No. 3 spot with 1.072.

Though ousted with a 2-9 record, Spring may play the spoiler's role as it guns for a graceful exit and salvage some pride for the next National Basketball League tournament sponsored by Tanduay Rhum, Air Philippines, PCSO, Panasonic, Cebu Ferries, SuperCat, Gatorate, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, BJ Star Logistics, The Freeman, Sinners and Saints, Jaguar KTV and Molten Basketball and telecast over IBC-13 through the facilities of Silverstar Communications Inc.

BAUTISTA

Four of Spring Cooking Oil's key men—guard Mario Reyes, Rodel Manuel, Bernard Tanpua and center Rolly Menor—are set to join the NBL selection in the Qatar Invitational Tournament set July 30 to Aug. 6.

A big plus factor for Pampanga, who'll be led by Dave Bautista, is the return of guard VJ Santos for the team supported by Lubao town Mayor Dennis Pineda, Bacolor Mayor Buddy Dungca and provincial board member Mark Lapid.

Meanwhile, the NBL is still accepting teams for the 2nd Regional Championship tentatively set Oct. 4. Cities and municipalities are encouraged to come up with teams for a minimal participation fee. Interested parties may inquire with the NBL secretariat c/o Nida Oliveros at (02) 811-1735

UP spikers vs Bulldogs

UNIVERSITY of the Philippines is expected to post its second straight win against National University when the 66th UAAP volleyball action resumes tomorrow at the UP gym in Diliman.

The Maroons are coming off a 25-22, 25-21, 25-21 win over defending men's champion UST, while the Bulldogs are reeling from a 25-18, 25-12, 25-16 loss to Adamson last Sunday.

The Maroons-Bulldogs tussle is set at 8 a.m. Other matches pit La Salle against UE at 9, FEU against Ateneo at 10 and UST against Adamson at 11.

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	35%	74,910	116,692	141,391
	40%	70,762	111,541	133,235

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Manufacturing output up 2.6% in May

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S 500 biggest manufacturers reported a 2.6-pecent increase in production in May, the third consecutive month of expansion, as they started beefing up inventory in anticipation of stronger demand in the second half of the year.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the increase in manufacturing volume for the month, which stood better than the 1.2-percent revised growth for April, was boosted by the production of wood and wood products, basic metals, non-electrical machinery, textile, petroleum products, food, publishing and printing.

The volume of production index for May likewise rose by 2.4 percent on a month-on-month basis from the previous month's revised contraction of 5.7 percent due to the notable growth in tobacco, publishing and printing, textile, transport equipment and basic metals.

Analysts said the manufacturing sector, which accounts for two-thirds of the country's industrial output and a quarter of gross domestic product, could be anticipating higher demand from both domestic and foreign markets as jitters over the SARS outbreak and the Middle East crisis fizzled out.

ATR Kim Eng Securities economist Luz Lorenzo said the monthly manufacturing data from the NSO was too erratic to monitor, but noted that in general, the manufacturing sector was still being weighed down by weak exports.

"Demand from the domestic market is strong. I'm just waiting for exports to pick up. I'm a little bit more confident that it will improve in the third quarter because the second quarter (output) was still affected by the SARS outbreak," Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo said the country had seen some improvement in export earnings starting May but noted the sector was not likely to make any significant contribution to GDP until the second semester of the year.

Meanwhile, the NSO said the value of production index by top manufacturers likewise continued an upbeat trend with a growth of 10.7 percent in May, contributed mainly by basic metals which increased by 97.3 percent.

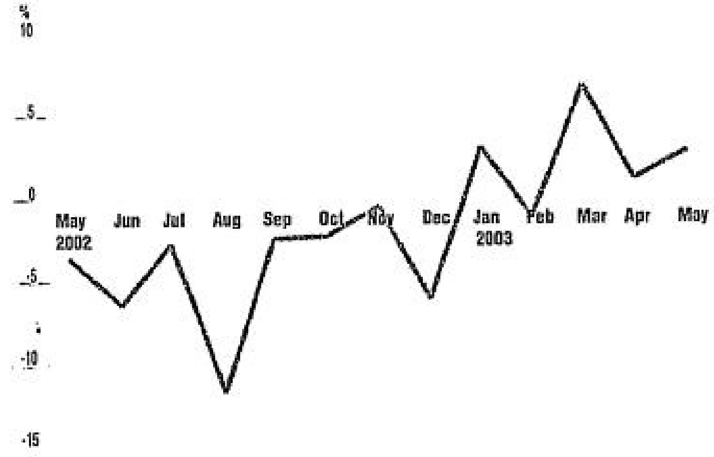
The value of net sales likewise increased by 4.5 percent in May on a year-on-year basis following a double-digit growth in receipts from non-electrical machinery, footwear and wearing apparel, textile, petroleum, furniture and fixtures, food and chemical products.

The average capacity utilization in May for total manufacturing was estimated at 78.4 percent.

The sectors that posted more than 80-percent capacity utilization rates were: non-electrical machinery, miscellaneous manufactures, paper and paper products, footwear and wearing apparel, petroleum products and textile.

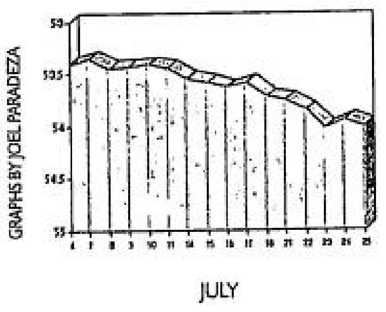
The proportion of responding establishments that operated at full capacity (90-100 percent) in May was 16.1 percent while 50.5 percent of the responding establishments ran at 70-89 percent capacity and 33.4 percent operated below 70-percent capacity.

VOLUME OF PRODUCTION INDEX GROWTH RATES
May 2002 to May 2003



INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 54.01 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 25, 2003

¥ 118.94 = $1
As of 5 p.m., July 25, 2003

GOLD: $361.50-361.80
per ounce Hong Kong, July 25, 2003

July 25, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.871384	1.000000	54.123000
Japan	Yen	0.007328	0.008410	0.455200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.408069	1.615900	87.457400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111733	0.128225	6.939900
Switzerland	Franc	0.647532	0.743108	40.219200
Canada	Dollar	0.624156	0.716281	38.767300
Singapore	Dollar	0.498503	0.572082	30.962800
Australia	Dollar	0.578147	0.663482	35.909600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.311486	2.652661	143.570000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.232375	0.266674	14.433200
Brunei	Dollar	0.497082	0.570451	30.874500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000117	0.006300
Thailand	Baht	0.020802	0.023872	1.292000
UAE	Dirham	0.237266	0.272287	14.737000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.147600	62.111600
Argentina	Peso	0.312324	0.358423	19.398900
Brazil	Real	0.302249	0.346861	18.773200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134521	0.154376	8.355300
India	Rupee	0.018931	0.021725	1.175800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.229342	0.263193	14.244800
Mexico	New Peso	0.082713	0.094922	5.137500
New Zealand	Dollar	0.510986	0.586407	31.738100
Norway	Kroner	0.120808	0.138639	7.503600
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015120	0.017352	0.939100
Korea	Won	0.000739	0.000848	0.045900
Sweden	Kroner	0.108575	0.124601	6.743800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025427	0.029180	1.579300

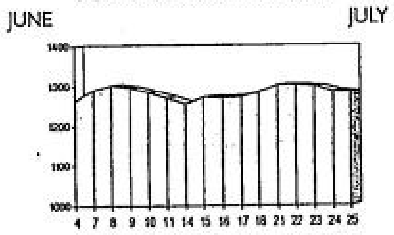
STOCK MARKET

Stocks dip in slow trade

STOCKS ended a shade lower yesterday as investors stayed on the sidelines ahead of President Macapagal-Arroyo's state of the nation address on Monday.

STOCKS/ B2

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

RP, Japan forming body to boost economic ties

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES and Japan will create a joint coordinating team that will facilitate negotiations on the proposed economic partnership agreement between the two countries, the Department of Trade and Industry announced yesterday.

The Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) sets out the terms of a planned economic cooperation in the areas of trade, investment promotion, information technology, tourism and human resource development. The JPEPA, if finalized, is expected to boost economic activities between the two countries.

According to Trade and Industry Undersecretary Thomas Aquino, the creation of the joint coordinating team was an offshoot of the discussions between the working groups of Japan and the Philippines during the recently concluded 5th Meeting of the JPEPA'S Working Group.

"The coordinating team will effectively move the JPEPA process forward to a more advanced stage, leading to actual negotiations," said Aquino in a statement.

In the meeting, representatives of both countries exchanged views on the probable technical efforts both parties could exert and the basic arrangements for the implementation of the JPEPA.

According to Aquino, the recent meeting, which was attended by Makio Miyagawa as Japan's head of delegation, also discussed issues concerning government procurement and trade of services.

He said Japanese and Philippine representatives have scheduled three more meetings before the holding of the Asean-Japan Commemorative Summit in December to finalize the creation of the joint coordinating team.

The trade official expressed optimism that the coming meetings between both parties would eventually lead to the signing of the economic agreement between the Philippines and Japan. "We find the JPEPA an attractive initiative that could involve not just trade agreements, but also other sectors of the economy," Aquino said.

He reported that the Japanese delegation also offered employment opportunities for Filipinos in Japan, particularly in the field of nursing and care-giving.

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Blessing in these guys

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THEIR biggest worry, at least those old time investors in the stock market, has nothing to do with unclean washrooms.

Actually, it's the venerable PCGG. The Presidential Commission on GOOD Government is threatening to take over San Miguel, the biggest private business here.

In the stock market, they say that we cannot escape the result. In the event of a PCGG takeover, San Miguel will become just another government office.

And they are not just talking about dirty broken toilets, or hordes of deadwood, or even all the stealing left and right.

* * *

THOSE ills in any government office may even look like a blessing in disguise. In the stock market, they are talking about losses—HEAVY losses.

That's the main worry, if the PCGG, as one of its big-shot commissioners, a certain Ruben Carranza, is peddling in media, succeeds in working out the takeover.

It is something that the many small (i.e. powerless) stockholders of San Miguel do not deserve. They cannot trust the PCGG to manage their company well.

For nobody expects anybody in the PCGG to care much for San Miguel and its stockholders. It's the case throughout all the 17 years of PCGG's prolonged history.

* * *

NEVER mind the odorous toilets in most government offices. Just think of the losses gathered by only 13 government-run businesses. They amount to P120 billion.

The top favorite among them is, of course, the state-run monopoly National Power Corporation—the one and only Napocor.

As of last count, in the year 2001, Napocor's revenues reached P136 billion. Its losses that year amounted to P10 billion. In three years, its losses reached P35 billion.

Some people refer to business as "money making." Napocor is the first and only business that's known as a money-razing machine. It can lose money without even trying.

* * *

NOW the total liabilities of Napocor are estimated at around P300 billion. The debts present a little problem. The government is giving up. It wants to privatize the company.

Unfortunately, after the sale of its assets, franchise, and goodwill, if any, the proceeds cannot cover for all the debts. Make a wild guess who will pay for it all!

Moreover, for political convenience, this cute administration just went ahead and cut the so-called PPA. The cut costs P30 billion a year, added to the losses of Napocor.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the way the government runs business. The biggest concern is always personal gain. If it's not kickback, it's popularity rating.

* * *

ANOTHER sad story is that of the National Food Authority or NFA. Its losses in 2001, based on official records, amounted to P1.7 billion.

BREAKTIME/ B7

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of July 25, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.25	19	19	31,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48.5	48	48	311,600
China Banking Corp.	655	655	655	655	1,800
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	34	34	33.5	33.5	27,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	251,500
Prudential Bank	300	300	300	300	1,080
Philippine National Bank	26.5	27	26.5	26.5	18,100
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	18	17.5	18	41,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.5	50,100
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.4	420,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	3	3.1	3	3.1	11,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1545	1550	1545	1550	1,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.36	1.3	1.32	14,024,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1110	1125	1110	1125	4,960
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.75	20.75	20	20.5	39,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	760,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	695	695	680	680	32,460
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.033	5,800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.62	3,690,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	545	545	535	545	54,880
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	73,000
Manila Electric Co. B	18	18.5	18	18.25	2,021,900
Petron Corp.	2.12	2.14	2.1	2.12	2,667,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.9	630,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.51	0.54	0.5	0.5	230,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	290,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	100,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	30,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17	17	17	101,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53	53	52.5	53	95,900
San Miguel Corp. B	62	63	62	63	67,200
Universal Robina Corp.	5.9	6	5.9	6	89,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	5.2	8	5.2	8	9,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.38	0.35	0.38	240,000
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8	5,640,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.7	184,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.042	0.045	0.042	0.043	10,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.78	0.83	0.78	0.83	120,000
APC Group Inc.	0.115	0.125	0.115	0.125	4,700,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	25,000,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	70,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.78	0.8	0.75	0.78	15,180,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	800,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.07	0.075	0.07	0.075	700,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.35	0.3	0.33	36,130,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	16.5	17.25	16.5	17.25	1,043,900
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.24	0.24	150,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.14	0.145	8,880,000
Ionics Inc.	1.76	1.82	1.74	1.76	852,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	273,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.79	0.81	0.79	0.81	20,810,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	3,600,000
Music Corp.	0.43	0.47	0.43	0.45	4,970,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.155	0.16	0.155	0.16	50,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.065	0.09	0.065	0.09	4,200,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	5,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	550,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.08	0.055	0.08	9,700,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.75	16.75	1,600
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1,080,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	350,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.48	0.53	0.48	0.53	3,390,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	200,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.5	20.75	20	20.5	266,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	7,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.7	2,678,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	150,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	2,700,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	6,550,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	6,410,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.14	6,965,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	300,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.3	0.25	0.27	5,620,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.245	0.225	0.245	5,260,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	100,000
SM Development Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	545,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.4	10,083,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	110,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	15,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0044	0.0044	23,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	89,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	300,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	130,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.014	3,400,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	9,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	33,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	7,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.028	0.039	0.028	0.032	26,900,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	800,000

Stocks dip in slow trade

From page B1

Analysts said players were also awaiting the release of first-half corporate results of most blue chips in the first week of August for firmer leads.

San Miguel Corp. is due to announce first-half earnings on Aug. 7 while the country's largest conglomerate Ayala Corp releases its report on Aug. 8.

The Philippine main index slipped 1.57 points or 0.12 percent to 1,283.80 points. On the week, the market was down 0.09 percent, but is up 26.06 percent so far this year. *Reuters*

DISCLOSURES

MANULIFE Financial Corp. declared a quarterly dividend of C$0.21 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Aug. 15 and will be payable on Sept. 19.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Racing Club Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 25, 4 p.m. at the VIP Room of PRCI Santa Ana Park, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of July 21 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

EXPORT and Industry Bank Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 12, 8 a.m. at the G/F of ExportBank Plaza, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 21 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

DMCI Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 27, 9 a.m. at the 4/F, Universal Business Club, Equitable Bank Building, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of July 14 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bought 173,000 of its own shares at P1.32 per share.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Jollivile Holdings Corp. were Jolly Ting, Kenrick Ting, Nanette Ongcarranceja, Ortrud Ting, Lourdes Ting, Dexter Quintana and Rolando Tuazon. ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

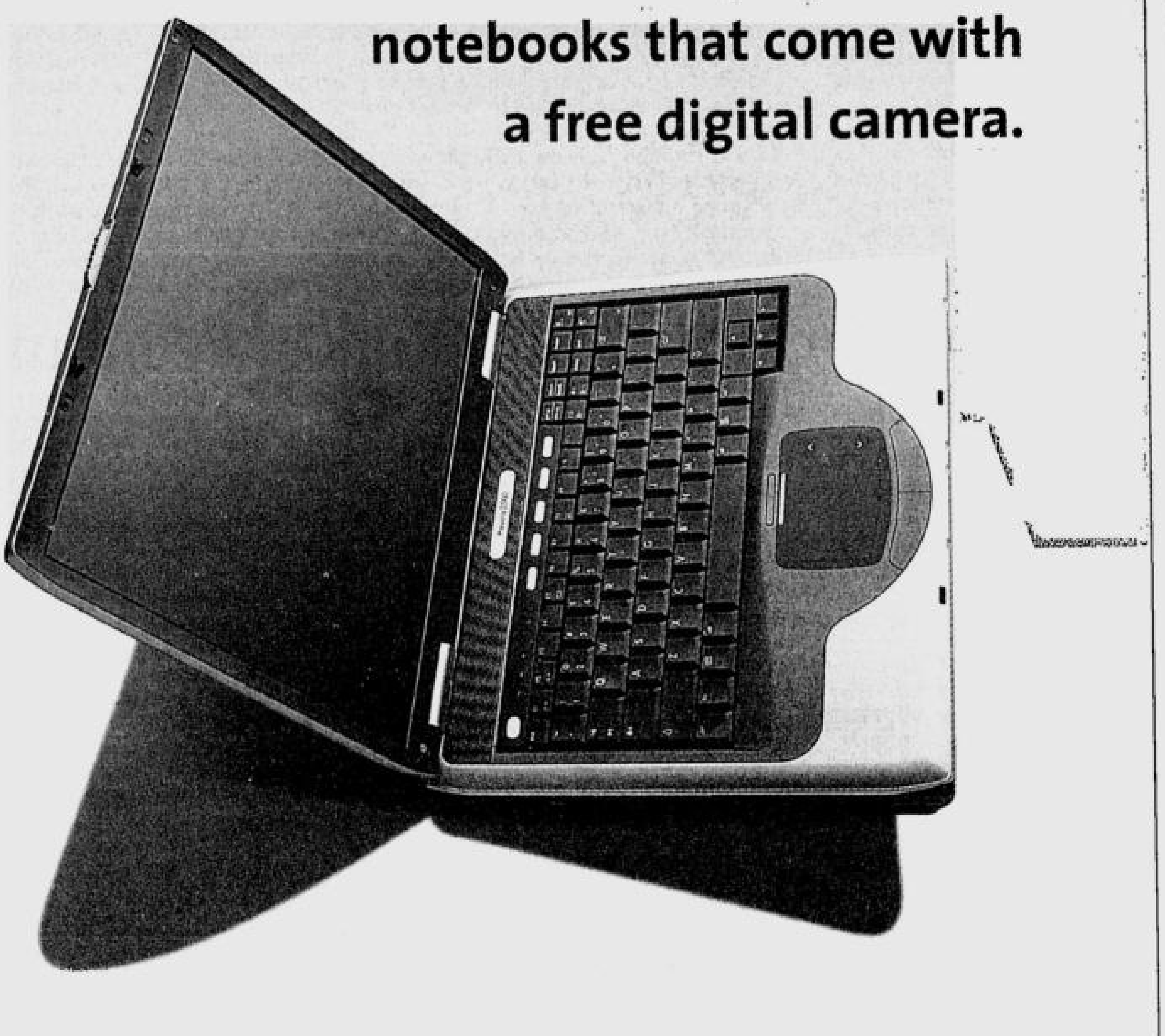
INTEREST RATES

July 25, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 25-Jul-03	MART1 24-Jul-03
1 Month	6.2071	6.26
3 Months	6.2161	6.2536
6 Months	6.8067	6.7617
1 Year	7.3483	7.2982
2 Years	8.675	8.68
3 Years	9.4917	9.465
4 Years	9.9233	9.9067
5 Years	10.1286	10.125
7 Years	10.9933	10.9667
10 Years	11.345	11.3383
20 Years	11.95	11.95
25 Years	12.2983	12.3033

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

> Picture this--featured Compaq Presario notebooks that come with a free digital camera.



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- 1.44MB
- 10/100 LAN Ethernet integrated
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Double Gokongwei wedding

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE ALREADY tight pool of high society's bachelorettes will further shrink this weekend when two of taipan John Gokongwei's eligible daughters will tie the knot all the way in Hawaii.

The low-key billionaire is as usual trying to hush up the details, but we understand that the widowed daughter of Gokongwei, Faith, exchanged vows with Abenson scion Winston Lim yesterday noon, Honolulu time, at the Halikulani Hotel garden courtyard.

And on Monday, it will be Lisa's turn to exchange 'I dos' with longtime boyfriend Berck Cheng. Cheng's family is in the fabricated steel business while Lisa presides over the stable of Gokongwei glossy magazines.

In contrast, Lisa and Berck's will be a sunset wedding at the Mandarin Oriental Kahala's Cocohead gazebo.

A standing joke in the Gokongwei clan is that the competitive Mr. John wants more grandchildren from the current crop of four *apos*, since the other taipans have already as many as 14 grandchildren, with more underway from the other billionaire baby factories.

According to the grapevine, the invitations do not even list the *ninongs* or the *ninangs* for the two power weddings, an indication of how simple the two nuptials had been meant. No politician or government official was invited.

Asked why the weddings had to be held overseas, a Gokongwei family member cryptically replied, "less complications."

Doris and Danding

GLAMOROUS shipping heiress Doris Ho hosted a dinner Wednesday night at the Tower Club for San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.

But Ho was quick to clarify that the affair was not a platform for whatever presidential ambitions the San Miguel boss may have.

Ho chairs the education committee of the local chapter of the World Presidents Organization, and she thus invited the San Miguel CEO "to learn about his success in bringing new energy and leadership" to the country's biggest food, beverage and packaging conglomerate.

In addition to Ho and WPO president Basil Ong, about 40 business executives attended, including Mike Arroyo golf buddy Vivian Yuchengco, banker OV Espiritu, SGV chair Cesar Purisima, and Aloysius Colayco of Argosy Fund.

Interestingly, while Danding was meeting with the WPO group at the Tower Club's continental restaurant, five pro-administration senators—Manuel Villar, Ralph Recto, Joker Arroyo, Noli de Castro, and Francis Pangilinan—were huddled next door at the Baron's bar.

Coincidence?

Roco and Banco Filipino

FORMER Sen. Raul Roco's partner Barbara Anne Migallos accused Cocktales not only of "persist(ing) in lying" but also of being a "disgrace to the INQUIRER" (see Letters to the Editor, July 23, 2003) after we reported Monday that Raul Roco's law firm accepted a monthly retainer from Banco Filipino while the senator was chairing the Senate committee on banks and financial institutions.

"Cocktales last July 21 was full of lies," Migallos thundered. "That piece was motivated by ill will and malice."

"Our law office has not handled any case of Banco Filipino against the Bangko Sentral...."

Strange denial, since Banco Filipino itself has been quite proud of its long association with the Roco law firm.

For example, item 4 of the minutes of the Banco Filipino board meeting of July 15, 1997, pertaining to "Renewal of Retainership/Consultancy Agreement," mentions the Roco, Buñag, Kapunan, Migallos & Jardeleza Law Offices on top of the list of 10 consultants whose contracts had been renewed.

The Roco contract apparently lasted until at least last year since the minutes of the Aug. 13, 2002, Banco Filipino board meeting also had an item about the work extended by the Roco law firm.

"Mr. (Albert) Aguirre (Banco Filipino vice chair) said that the General Counsel of the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) in its letter to the bank...maintained the position earlier espoused by MB Member Melito Salazar that the BSP is not the successor-in-interest of the defunct Central Bank," said the Aug. 13, 2002, minutes.

"At this point, (Banco Filipino's) Atty. Filemon L. Fernandez cited the legal opinion of the bank's retained law firms, which includes the law firms of Roco, Buñag & Associates, former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, and former Justice Manuel Lazaro, that the BSP is a successor-in-interest of the CB."

"Atty. Fernandez said that on the basis of all these, the bank not only has a very strong legal ground to support its claim for damages but also to implead the BSP as party defendant in the damage claim cases as successor-in-interest of the defunct CB," the minutes concluded.

Worse, the Roco law firm also accepted a retainer with the new Bangko Sentral simultaneous with the Banco Filipino's. (How do we know? Cocktales used to work for the Office of the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral, that's how.)

Heard through the grapevine

GOOD news to condominium and subdivision homeowners.

According to the grapevine, a draft ruling awaits the signature of the BIR chief that will exempt condominium and subdivision dues from the 10-percent value-added tax.

In Makati where the association dues range from P50 to P70/month per square meter of condo unit, the new tax would effectively translate to an additional P500 to P700 a month for a 100-square-meter unit, or P5,500 to P7,700/month in absolute amounts. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

Current account surplus narrows to $342M in April

By Clarissa S. Batino

A SLOWDOWN in exports has narrowed the country's current account surplus to $342 million as of April, down 76.5 percent from $1.46 billion in the first four months of 2002, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the country could still hit its $2.36-billion surplus target in the current account if the export sector would grow by at least 5 percent.

Exporters, according to the BSP chief, have assured the central bank that a 5-percent growth was "doable" this year despite the continued slowdown in receipts as of June.

In the first four months, exports grew only 3.4 percent to $10.94 billion. The target this year is for exports to hit at least $36.1 billion. Imports, however, have increased by 14.5 percent to $11.96 billion against a full-year growth target of 7 percent.

The widening trade deficit has been putting pressure on the country's external payments. Essentially, a trade deficit implies that more dollars are flowing out to pay imports than the foreign exchange receipts from exports.

Buenaventura admitted that a declining dollar inflow would put pressure on the country's external reserves and, consequently, adversely affect the peso.

The BSP chief said he was confident that the balance-of-payments deficit would be contained at $1.13 billion this year and the gross international reserves kept at $14-$15 billion.

As of June, the BOP deficit had swelled to $616 million and the GIR stood at $15.87 billion.

"We feel reasonable secure that we will meet the BOP and GIR targets this year barring any dramatic events. A huge BOP deficit puts pressure on the peso and when this happens, we will be forced to tighten on money supply. A weak peso also bloats the foreign debt," explained the BSP chief.

REFUND ISSUE

Meralco, BIR form joint panel

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MANILA Electric Co. and the Bureau of Internal Revenue have agreed to form a group that would determine whether there was ground for the utility to file for tax rebates, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said yesterday.

"Meralco has not filed any (application) for tax refund and we will still study this possibility," Francisco said.

The utility executive said he believed the BIR had named its representatives to the working group, but that the group itself had yet to convene.

"We are giving this group a month or two to establish whether we could pursue a tax rebate (case)," Francisco said.

On June 24, Meralco officials said the company would ask for a tax rebate of roughly P9 billion and that it would go to court if the BIR refused to return the amount.

The rebate is seen to cushion the impact of a P30-billion refund to customers for income tax recovery between February 1994 and May 2003, which the Supreme Court had disallowed.

The officials said the refund to customers effectively wiped out the company's profits for the period involved and, thus, previous income tax payments made during those years should be returned.

Under BIR rules, a company has two years to file an amended tax return if it made mistakes in tax payment.

Meantime, former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile lashed out at Meralco for wanting a tax rebate.

"Meralco has hardly started paying back consumers the (P30-billion) income taxes it passed on to them illegally for nearly 10 years and now it is demanding a P9-billion tax refund," Enrile said.

He said Meralco's plan was "bereft of any merit and outrightly ridiculous."

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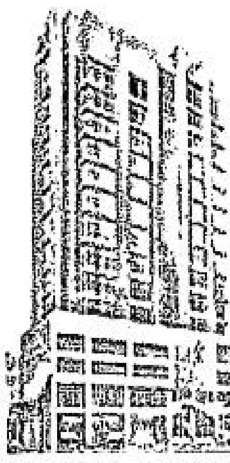

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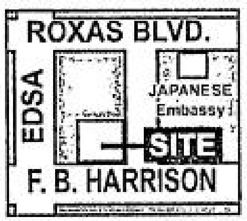

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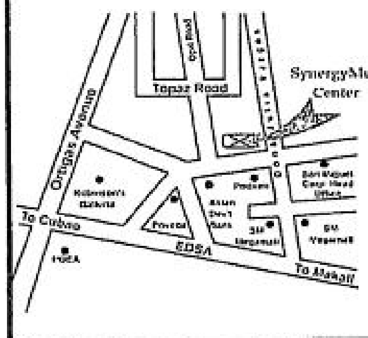

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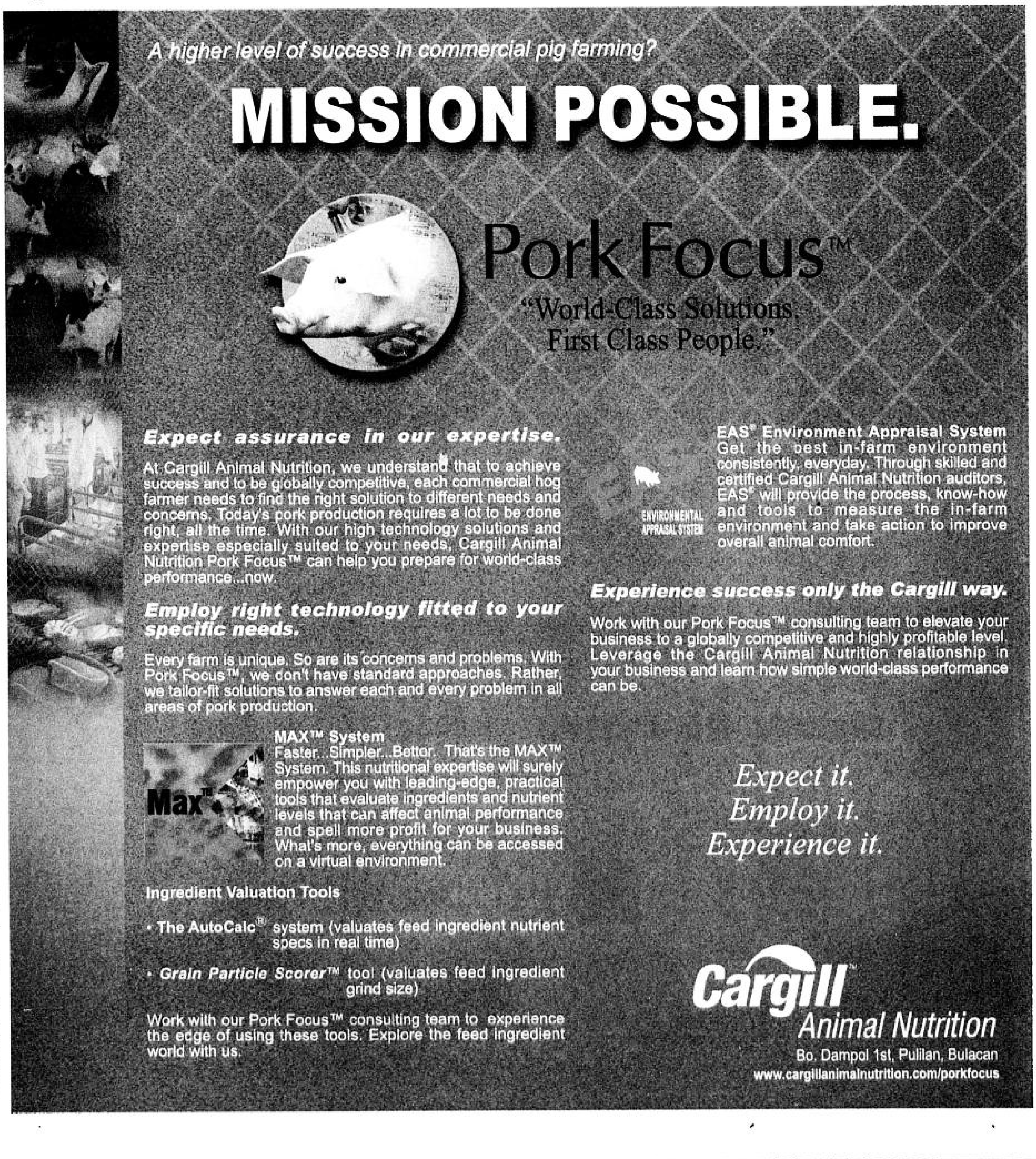
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NEGROS NAVIGATION

STEAMING FULL SPEED AHEAD

Charting an extremely challenging course through financial volatility and deflated market conditions, Negros Navigation (Nenaco), the shipping subsidiary of Metro Pacific Corporation, successfully steered towards an impressive record of business achievements. Through a keen focus on its core competencies and operational efficiencies, the company scored significant financial gains that enhanced its corporate viability and market prominence in the local shipping industry. Aligning its consumer franchise on product excellence and customer service in its operations, Nenaco capitalizes on the emerging synergies that propelled its drive toward profitability and growth.

REDEFINING OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

A vital factor to Nenaco's financial strength is the marshalling of its core competencies in support of its shipping operations. Divesting from its non-core operations, the company was able to broaden its perspectives in maturing its core strengths. Cognizant of the expanding needs of its customers, Nenaco imbued its passage and freight business segments with the corporate values of excellence, integrity, customer service, teamwork and innovation. This effort spawned a strong adherence to the "Gung Ho" spirit that exemplified the orientation of Nenaco's officers and employees at all levels of the organization towards a values-based performance and management system.

Complementing these initiatives were measures designed to optimize the use of existing facilities and rationalize the acquisition of new equipment in line with strict fiscal prudence. This endeavor resulted in the improved profitability of Nenaco solidifying its market position as one of the major players in the local shipping industry.

SERVICE EXCELLENCE THROUGH INNOVATION

Embodying the company's commitment to be responsive to its expanding clientele, Nenaco enhanced its passenger service by introducing iPAX, a passenger reservation and ticketing system that supports and monitors the operations of its ticketing offices. This service platform was utilized to broaden the company's partnership with its Primary Agents, the operators of Nenaco's principal ticketing offices. Realizing their crucial role in the company's operation, they were ingrained with Nenaco's corporate values and given incentives to build their respective businesses.

Passenger comfort and convenience aboard Nenaco's vessels have been among the key attractions for the increasing customer patronage enjoyed by the company. The diversity in cuisine and the friendly ambience enhances the positive experience of passengers aboard any voyage in Nenaco's clean and well-maintained ships. Navigated by competent officers and crew, the welfare and safety of the passengers are paramount in Nenaco's list of priorities.

CUSTOMIZING FREIGHT SERVICE

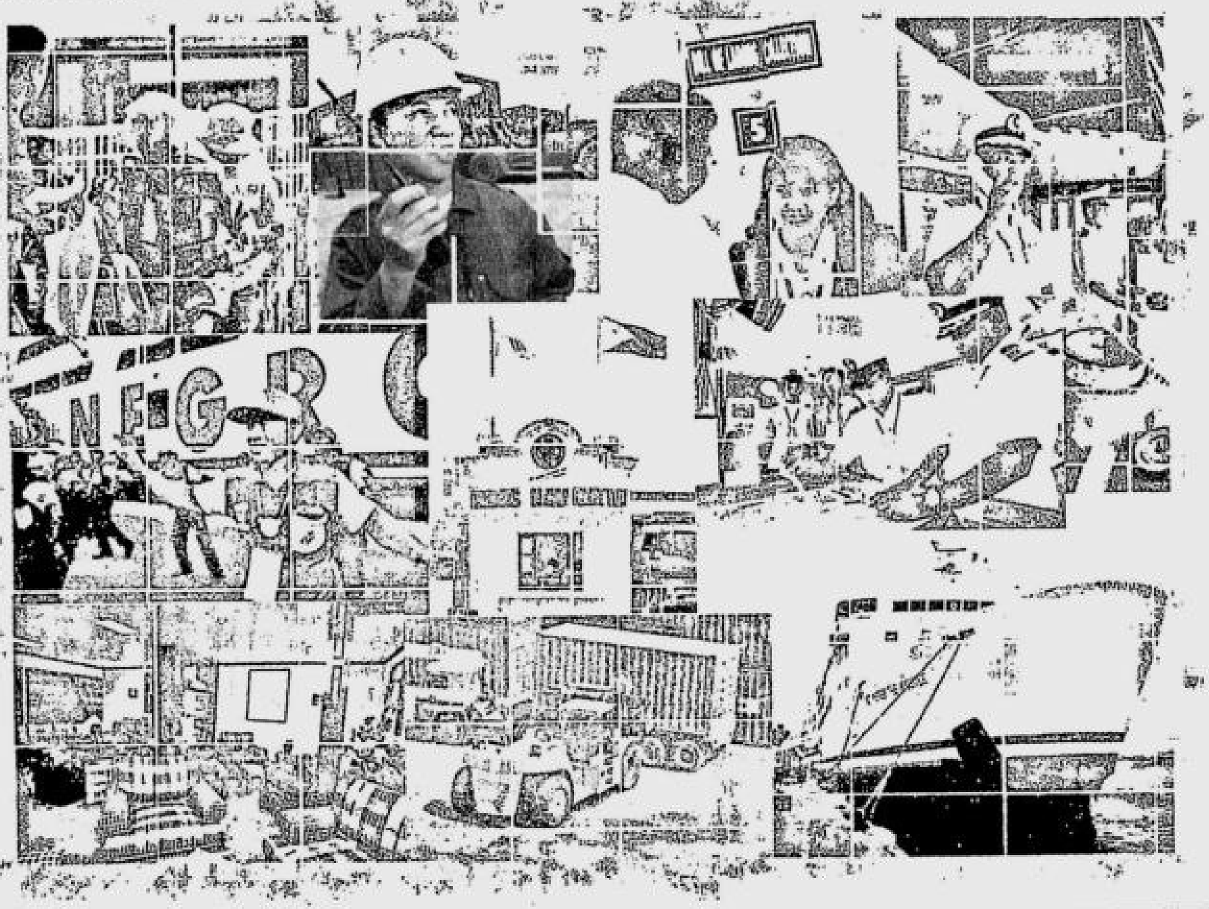
The streamlining of its freight business has substantially enhanced the efficiency and profitability of Nenaco's cargo operations. Focusing on higher-paying cargoes in order to optimize its carrying capacity, the company was able to realize increases in cargo as well as load rate. By rationalizing the profitability of its ports of call, Nenaco realigned its resources to better yielding areas thereby contributing to the company's profitability.

The opening of the Manila Integrated Container Yard (MICY) in 2002 provided the company's freight customers with substantial service enhancement. The MICY, a single, state-of-the-art container facility which consolidated all the existing container yards in Manila, significantly reduced the container yard costs of Nenaco while providing the added advantage of improved container monitoring and release. This Facility enabled the company to reduce the turnaround time of vans as well as its repairs, greatly enhancing its container management function. The creation of the Freight Booking Office (FBO) is another service the company extends to its cargo customers that reduces the time in processing documents. This measure reduces the trucker's queuing time and improves the operational turnaround.

For break-bulk cargo customers, Nenaco has initiated off-site receiving stations in strategic locations in Metro Manila to receive cargo from its customers. This activity clearly unburdens a client in terms of time and effort in availing of a cargo service.

CORPORATE STRENGTH: SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Nenaco has, through the years, been a symbol of excellence in passage and freight services in the domestic shipping industry. Single-minded in its resolve to provide the best range of services to its customers, the company has kept its market prominence and corporate viability. To highlight this commitment, the company has adopted a fresh new branding for itself as it seeks to project its commitments to its customers. As it continues to strive for yet higher levels of achievement in its industry, Nenaco is well poised to squarely meet the challenges and grow from this opportunities.



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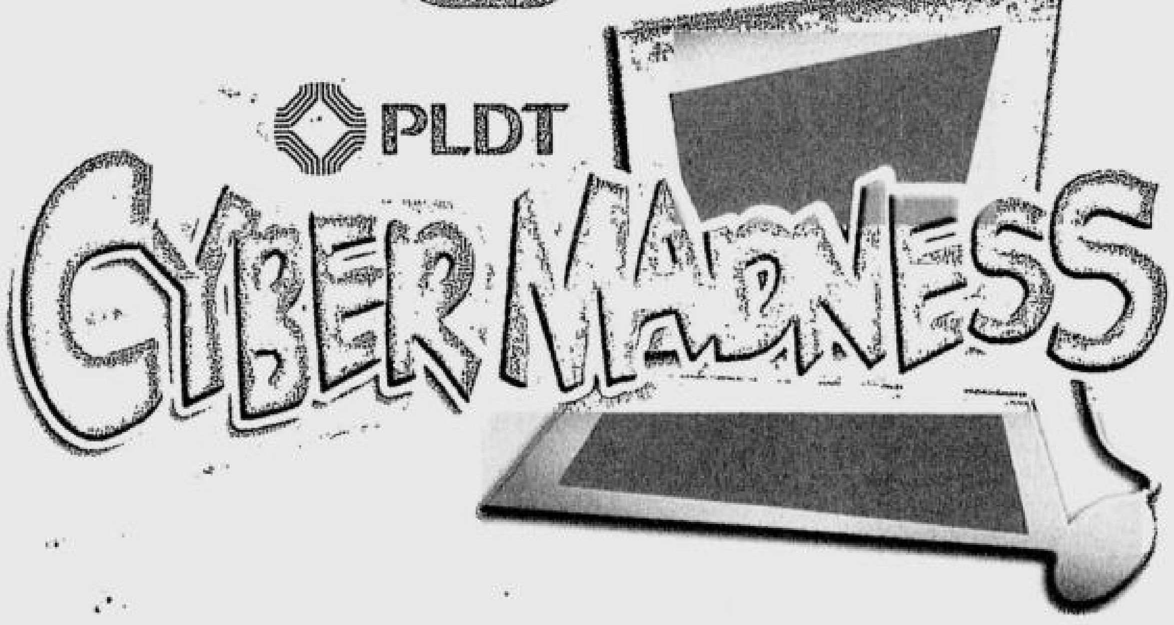

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

La Marea: A breathing community

BEING fairly successful in most areas of your life means you should be ready to complete it with your very own home. You should by now be setting your sights on the myriad of choice communities that are thriving in and out of the metropolis.

It's always easy to loose yourself in fantasies of a charming home but it's always hard to find one that meets all your rational considerations, when you get right down to the business of astute selection.

Pay a visit to Brittany Corporation's La Marea, set in the sprawling hills in the natural calm of Laguna and you might find that all such considerations for your decision-making are all there.

When you walk into La Marea, you walk into a living and breathing community of lush green, peace and quiet and well and beautifully designed homes. It's a fully developed and functional community where life is all the comfort you've always envisioned for your own family.

The roads are not only well-paved but also well-planned. You will not find a community with rows and rows of houses arranged in rigid industrial fashion. Rather, you will find endless slopes of green and mild turns of roads lined with trees, American country-inspired houses that are secured by white picket fences and splashed with hues of cream and pastels. Upstart families will find this community perfect for them. The sizes of the houses suit the size of these families. In terms of cost, they may be able to acquire a home that suits their budgets as well because they have a choice from an array of houses prized from P3.5 to P6.0 M.

Every available space in these homes and lots can be maximized to their full potential. Applying the finishing touches in its interiors is only limited by the families' imagination and creativity.

Aside from the occasional sounds of passing vehicles, you hear only the breeze playfully ruffling the trees, birds nestling in them and children at play. In short, it's a post-card picture come to life.

The amenities such as the clubhouse is already fully equipped and functional, with swimming pool, ball courts and homeowner's office already set up.

The clubhouse is set against a backdrop of nature and simulates an environment akin to a resort's, the foliages allowing just enough sun, shade and breeze for people who want to unwind. Ball courts are complete and within reach. The homeowners' office is well-equipped for meetings and small gatherings.

Find your place there soon. Call 850 6867 or 850 1992 or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

MARIO'S KITCHEN JOINS HOMETOWN PICNIC

Mario's Kitchen recently joined the hometown picnic in celebration of the Fil-Am Friendship Day held at the Seafront Grounds. Organized by the American Association of the Philippines and supported by the US Embassy, the picnic was a traditional annual affair in assistance to the American Association's social projects. Shown in photo are US Ambassador to Manila Francis Ricciardone and his wife Dr. Marie Ricciardone with the Mario's Kitchen group Nannette Morato, Miguel Castro, Robert Alonso, Arlene Ritual, Rene Arcueno and Michael Bron.

Leisure Farms to introduce prime lots and Lab Farms

LEISURE Farms, the Philippines' first hobby farming and agro-tourism development, will hold an event on July 27, (Sunday) to offer the newest phase in the project's growing community.

Dubbed "Farm Fresh Delights", Leisure Farms' on-site event will be a refreshing day of family fun and entertainment. There will be farm-fresh activities like horseback-riding and pick n' pay - a fruit and vegetable market - and more, giving visitors a taste of the Leisure Farms experience. The event will also feature live music and delicacies such Bukidnon's Kablon Farms' best selling Sweetened Passion Fruit Concentrates and My Goodness' Old-Style Oatmeal Cookies and MS Figies at the Gourmet Corner, a preview of what to expect form the Village Store. Designed to reflect the agro-tourism capability of Leisure Farms, the Village Store will be a shopping venue for the project's high-quality produce, farm seeds and supplies, and unique Filipino products not ordinarily seen in Metro Manila.

Meanwhile, the project is also set to commence the creation of its Laboratory Farms as a test venue for the project's Farm Management Services. Utilizing ten farmlots within the site, these laboratory farms will "iron out all the technicalities and perfect our farm management systems, ensuring smooth operations when lot owners get started with their farms," says Alfred Xerez-Burgos III, Group Head of Leisure Farms. These lab farms will also "serve to test our main facilities, which are already in place," he adds. The project's water distribution lines, deep well, water reservoir, and electrical lines in the farmlot zones have been operational since April. The farm's main bridge, perimeter fence, and main concrete spine road are also in place. Encouraged by these, some lot buyers have already begun building their farms.

The Demo Farms, another component of the Farm Management Services, is a set of model farms from which farmers, guests, students and agriculture enthusiasts can sample new technology and gather ideas. Also in the Demo Farms is the Agro-Tourism center.

The Grand Launch starts at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 27. There will be an Open House on July 26, Saturday. For more information call 8078754 to 58 local 375 or send a text message to 0920-9107145 and visit www.leisurefarms.com or www.landcopacific.com. A quality development of Landco Pacific Corporation, Leisure Farms can be accessed through Diokno Highway from Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay.

Bits Clips

Phap holds convention

THE Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines invites you on its Luzon Regional Convention today at the Casino Filipino in Tagaytay City focusing on the theme on "Healthcare Management in Time of Stress". Various healthcare topics on patient's bill of rights, implementation of the value-added tax in hospital settings, environmentally responsible healthcare practices, Sars, update on hospital categories and Philhealth implementing rules. To register, contact the secretariat at telefax 929-7386 or 426-6848.

Legal ABCs for business

THE Legal ABCs for Business is a seminar that is geared towards helping businessmen keep legal problems from getting in the way of making money. The seminar shall be conducted by Business Talk and Training Inc. It will be held today, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Milky Way Café, 900 A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City. For inquiries email Business Talk and Training Inc. at msb4@pacific.net.ph, text or call them at 09228492229, or call 8134409 (lawyer Mendoza) or 8480304 (lawyer Laurel) during business hours.

Fruit carving course

LEARN how to make the food you serve more visually exciting with fruit and vegetable carvings. ProActive Center for Training (Pact) offers its How to Garnish with Fruit and Vegetable Carving Workshop today, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., at Sari-Sari Cafeteria, Eastwood City Walk, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Reservations and inquiries are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis at tel. no. 787-6370, mobile no. 0916-8226053. Training fee is P1,800 per participant inclusive of the vegetables and fruits, carving tools, snacks, handouts and certificate of completion.

Meg Fun Fair

CALLED Meg Fun Fair, the Meg 5th Anniversary Party is a smorgasbord of freebies, fashion, fine young beauties, faves and most importantly fun. Meg celebrates its 5th birthday today, from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at Eastwood Central Plaza, Libis Quezon City. It is sponsored by Block & White, Chapstick and Eastwood City Walk. Meg is published by Mega Magazines and Publications Inc. and is available at leading bookstores and newsstands nationwide. For more information call Kim Legaspi at 6312859.

Quick and easy English

CORBAN Daycare and Tutorial Center is holding two English and Writing seminars for children, slated for 10 successive Saturdays, from July 26 onwards, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.; and 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. "Quick and Easy English" for kids aged 7 to 12, will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. "English Without the Pain" for students aged 13 to 16, will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Corban is located at 6F, MB Aguirre Bldg., President's Ave. cor. Elizalde sts., Sucat Parañaque. Interested parties may call 842-6665 / 809-3050 / 0917-6297718.

Nu Skin success seminar

SUCCESSFUL Nu Skin executives take centerstage as Nu Skin Philippines (NSP) mounts a success seminar in their honor today, 8:00 a.m. at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza in Makati City. With the thematic peg "Tread Nu Territories," the one-day event will include a line-up of exciting activities to be highlighted by an awarding ceremony, which will give recognition to NSP's top awardees and pin advancements. Tickets are priced at P150 for distributors and P50 for guests. For inquiries, contact Nu Skin Philippines' Distributor Hotline at 689-0333 or log on to www.nuskin.com.ph.

SSC-R Cavite City IV-Red H.S. batch '93 reunion

THE San Sebastian College - Cavite City IV-Red H.S. batch '93 will be having a reunion on Sept. 27 (Saturday). Batchmates are requested to attend the preparation meeting on Aug. 2, 8:00 p.m. at April Igtiben's residence in Remelville Subd. Noveleta Cavite. For details contact: Alvin Manalo - 4381051 / 09194121797; Benedict Muncal - 4387063 / 09189404986.

QUEEN OF PERFECT SMILE

April Ross Perez, better known as Miss Philippines-Earth 2002, poses with Perfect Smile director of communications, Brad Geiser after having her teeth whitened using an elite light-enhanced treatment. As sponsors of the Miss Philippines pageant, viewers got to see the country's most beautiful young women flashing smiles that have a special glow unique to Perfect Smile clients. Recognized as the foremost experts in the Philippines when it comes to safely removing difficult stains and discoloration from teeth, Perfect Smile was the natural choice to help the contestants sparkle. For a pageant quality smile, visit Perfect Smile's Professional Teeth Whitening Center at Glorietta 2, level 3 in Makati or for inquiries please call 892-9398 or 892-9941. Visit Perfect Smile's website at www.oneperfectsmile.com.

Slim down the right way

WITH such premium being placed on being thin, it's no surprise that nowadays, people are trying every possible method available just to lose weight. Sometimes even to the extent of doing their bodies harm.

In working for a smaller waistline, a lot of factors are at play. There is really no one step-miracle solution. Oral slimming preparation are a big help but must be taken in conjunction with a proper diet, a regular exercise regimen, and vitamin supplements.

When choosing slimming formulas, one must take into consideration its track record. Look how long the product has been in the market. Make sure that it is backed by a reputable corporation, more importantly, check for the safety of the product.

You don't have to limit yourself to less. There's a wide array of choices available. Choose what best suits your taste and lifestyle.

No matter what product you go for, make it a habit to read labels conscientiously and follow instructions to the dot. If you feel it necessary, seek professional advice. Pregnant and lactating women are discouraged from taking slimming preparations since these may effect the absorption and efficiency of medicines.

A balanced lifestyle and a better understanding of slimming products would help you attain your goal in no time. You can achieve that sexy body without putting your health on the line.

PTI welcomes tobacco law, but...

THE Philippine Tobacco Institute (PTI) welcomed the enactment of Republic Act 9211 otherwise known as the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 and pledged its support for the successful implementation of the new law.

PTI president Rodolfo Salanga lauded both the Senate and the House for finally putting in place a framework to regulate the tobacco industry in the country.

To have clarity on the new law, Salanga said the PTI is willing to work with the inter-agency committee that will draft the implementing rules and regulations of the Act.

He said certain provisions of the law need to be clarified specially those concerning health warnings on packages and advertisements.

As to public smoking, Salanga stressed that RA 9211 should prevail over local ordinances. He added that there is a compelling need for local governments to respect the public smoking policy enshrined in the national law, such that local ordinances will have to be aligned thereto. This, Salanga reasoned, is necessary to avoid confusion and to prevent the harassment of smokers and owners of facilities catering to both smokers and non-smokers.

Section 5 (e) of RA 9211 on public smoking provides that smoking shall be absolutely prohibited in "public conveyances and public facilities including airport and ship terminals and train and bus stations, restaurants and conference halls, except for separate smoking areas." Moreover, Sec. 39 par. 2 provides that "All other laws, decrees, ordinances, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are likewise repealed or amended accordingly."

"Public smoking in restaurants and other similar establishments, therefore under the Act is allowed so long as separate smoking areas are provided by the owners of the establishments," Salanga said.

I-Barangay Mo! airs over DZRH

A NEWS action-oriented radio program, "I-Barangay Mo!" was launched over DZRH Nationwide, one of the country's leading radio stations today, every Saturday at 6:30 p.m. James Marty Lim, president of the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas (Liga) hosts the program along with veteran broadcaster Sonny Casulla, designed to address the myriad issues and concerns affecting the 42,000 barangay units nationwide. MMDA chair Bayani Fernando, Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo Jr., and other barangay leaders will be today's guests. Those who wish to join the discussion during the program may phone in their questions, queries or comments to telephone numbers 832-6112 or 832-6117 or text to 700-MARTY or 700-62789.

VASELINE LOTION HEALTHY SKIN TOUR FORMALLY LAUNCHED

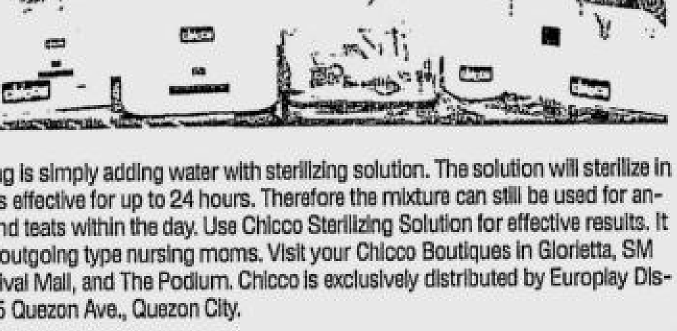
Lifestyle columnists and celebrity mom Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan and Sidney Fortun cut the ribbon to formally open the Vaseline Lotion Healthy Skin Tour at SM North Edsa. With them are Unilever brand manager Jeffrey Cheng and brand assistant Whitney Cua. The Vaseline Lotion mall tour gave shoppers that experience of healthy, nourished skin as only Vaseline can give. Vaseline Lotion has a unique Triple Lipid Complex (TLC), which effectively replenishes lipids, your skin's natural moisture layer that soaps and everyday elements wash away.

ProductFILES

Touch Mobile Cards now at P100 and P50

In its continuing effort to keep its rates within the reach of every member of the family, Touch Mobile recently launched two new call card denominations - P100 and P50. Compared to other call cards, these new Touch Mobile call cards have longer periods of validity, thus, giving the subscriber more time to consume the load in his account. The P100 call card is valid for 15 days and can still receive calls and text messages 120 days after even without reloading, while the value of the P50 call card must be consumed within 7 days and can still receive calls and text messages 30 days after. The new Touch Mobile call cards are in addition to its existing P200, P300 and P500 call cards and are now available in all Touch Mobile distribution channels and Globe Business Centers.

Cold water sterilizers



ONE of the most difficult chores for nursing moms is sterilizing. Ideal time for sterilizing is 30 minutes boiling, likewise, boiling time for your baby's formula milk. Chicco introduces a more advanced method of sterilizing, the Cold Water Sterilizer. Complete cold water sterilizing is simply adding water with sterilizing solution. The solution will sterilize in approximately 30 minutes and is effective for up to 24 hours. Therefore the mixture can still be used for another round of feeding bottles and teats within the day. Use Chicco Sterilizing Solution for effective results. It is an ideal sterilizing system for outgoing type nursing moms. Visit your Chicco Boutiques in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, Festival Mall, and The Podium. Chicco is exclusively distributed by Europlay Distributor Company located at #25 Quezon Ave., Quezon City.

EXTENSIVE CROP DAMAGE

Gov't to cut tariff on corn

THE GOVERNMENT said it might cut the tariff on corn, imported under the minimum access volume, to 20 percent from 35 percent in view of the prospect of a bigger production shortfall after typhoon Harurot damaged crops in a key corn growing area.

But local feedmillers want the government to entirely waive tariffs on 400,000 tons of imported corn for arrival in October after the typhoon swept across Isabela and other northern provinces earlier this week.

Trade sources said feedmillers would ask the government to import the corn on their behalf so it would come in tariff-free.

"We will see if we can bring it (the tariff) down to 20 percent," Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo told a media forum in Manila. "We will try to negotiate with the DoF (Department of Finance) given the extent of the damage to corn in Isabela."

In an updated report on Friday, the Department of Agriculture estimated damage to corn at 446,000 tons from the typhoon. Lorenzo said damage to rice was minimal at 78,115 tons.

The government allows a limited quantity of corn to be imported each year at a tariff of 35 percent to meet the minimum shortfall in local production. A tariff of 65 percent is imposed on imports outside of this program.

Lorenzo said the crop damage inflicted by the typhoon could trigger a corn supply shortage.

"There is now a need to import some 300,000 metric tons of corn to meet the requirements particularly of food manufacturers and feed millers," said Lorenzo.

On Wednesday, an executive at a feedmill said that even at a tariff of 35 percent, the landed cost of Chinese corn was higher at P9.54 per kg than the P8.50 per kg for local corn.

Traders said the Philippines needs at least 5.5 million tons of corn and corn substitutes a year for animal feed.

Early this month, before typhoon Harurot hit several parts of the country, the Department of Agriculture projected a corn harvest of 4.7 million tons this year, compared with 4.3 million tons in 2002. *Reuters, Christine A. Gaylican*

Banks' dollar deposits still stable

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is planning to further tighten rules on foreign exchange transactions to ensure that dollar purchases from the spot market are not parked indefinitely in dollar accounts, which will give regulators a hard time to track the dollars.

"We may have to tighten some rules on the dollar sales from the spot market because there are concerns among regulators that banks may be buying dollars and parking them indefinitely in dollar accounts for purposes of using them for speculation later," said BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes in an interview.

As of July 11, the banks' dollar deposits stood at $12.9 billion, slightly higher than $12.813 billion in end-June. In June 2002, the banks' foreign currency deposits were at $12.413 billion.

Reyes said that while the rising dollar deposits could mean a stable capital flow, it also was "somewhat suspicious."

The peso has been volatile in recent days on concerns over a widening trade deficit and political unrest triggered by rumors of a coup plot against the administration. The peso fell to 54.025 to $1 last Wednesday but managed to recover to 53.95 on Thursday. Yesterday, the peso closed at 54.01 to $1.

Reyes said the central bank might impose a limit on how long banks and investors could park foreign exchange bought from the spot market in dollar accounts.

"We can impose a limit, of say three days, for them to park dollar purchases in their respective FCDUs. But the BSP must have a way of checking whether the money was used to finance activities as indicated when they bought the dollars," said Reyes.

The law provides foreign currency deposit units the right to absolute secrecy. Not even the central bank is allowed to look into funds deposited in FCDUs.

Sun Life unit raising P400M in capital

By Doris C. Dumlao

SUN Life of Canada Prosperity Bond Fund Inc., an open-end mutual fund of Sun Life of Canada Philippines Inc., is raising at least P400 million in fresh capital through the issuance of redeemable shares.

Based on documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, SLCPBF would like to register P300 million worth of common shares with a par value of P1 each, representing the latest increase of its authorized capital stock approved in 2002.

The offering is expected to raise gross proceeds of P403.86 million or more depending on the actual NAVPS (net asset value per share) on the date of issuance," the company said.

The projected proceeds were based on the mutual fund's NAVPS as of July 18.

The proceeds from the sale of securities will be invested and reinvested in a portfolio of high-quality debt instruments issued by the Philippine government and prime Philippine companies," the company said.

Breaktime

From page B2

That means the government corporation's capital is already wiped out. It even needs some P3.3 billion more in new capital just to cover for all its losses.

Just to remind you, it is our money which the NFA lost, continues to lose, and will still lose in the days to come.

To think, you can make money in dealing with the NFA. Somebody's brother-in-law cornered the transport contracts. Rice importation is another horror story there.

* * *

JUST recently, somebody won in the NFA bidding for rice importation. He apparently used some farmers' cooperatives to qualify for the bidding.

Upon the arrival of the imported rice at the Manila piers, a military unit swooped down on the shipment, supposedly, upon order of somebody at the Palace.

After the military unit, well, "took over" the shipment, it turned out that the shipment was a legitimate importation, with the taxes and duties all paid for.

Still, somebody in Malacañang was able to use a military unit to get it. Nobody can say if Gloriaetta herself actually knew about the ... well, "operation."

* * *

AND then you have the UCPB story, the same United Coconut Planters Bank which, for 15 of the past 17 years, the PCGG controlled.

UCPB ran into trouble during the time of Kuya Eddie. The PCGG guys in the bank had a bright solution. They simply made the bank absorb more debts.

The debts belonged to its subsidiary UCPB Capital, amounting to P6 billion. Since UCPB Capital was also in trouble, the PCGG guys merged it with the bank.

The merger in effect gave UCPB some P6 billion more in bad loans. These were given to only two property companies—Ever Gotesco and Primetown.

* * *

AS it turned out, then under the control of PCGG, UCPB Capital sold shares in those two companies to the public, with a firm promise to buy them back later.

The shares of course became worthless later. UCPB is saddled with those shares now, plus its P6 billion exposure in the two companies.

Moreover, UCPB even formed its own real estate subsidiary, which invested P2 billion to P3 billion in Forbes Tower. What did they know about property development?

And so who is now accountable for all that? It's not the PCGG of course. The PCGG just appointed the guys in the bank.

The same thing will happen in San Miguel, if the PCGG takes over. The company will only become the biggest "blessing" ever to those guys.

* * *

HOW come elections are always a problem in this country? Take the recent elections of new officers of the UPAA—the UP Alumni Association.

The two contending groups are now fighting it out in court. And guess what—the association does not have a new set of officers yet.

Actually, the group headed by Nelia Gonzales filed cases one after another against everybody, including the UPAA "comelec."

Thus, being destroyed is the reputation of the comelec chair, a certain Victor Avecilla. The Gonzales group sued him in his personal capacity. See what I mean!

* * *

AT first, just like in real life elections, the Gonzales group questioned the "eligibility" of some 5,000 "voters."

But then both camps agreed, upon the court's prodding, to allow some 1,500 "voters" to cast their votes. It's what the elections were all about, in the first place.

The Gonzales group then changed their minds, apparently because, according to comelec chair Avecilla, they thought they were already leading.

So the Gonzales group asked the court to stop the comelec from allowing those same 1,500 members to vote. The plot thickens.

* * *

BUT then, according to Avecilla, it turned out that the Gonzales group might not lead in the initial canvass, after all, and so they asked the comelec to qualify some more voters.

Avecilla said those voters numbered about 155, plus 6,000 more of the graduates of 2002.

Meanwhile, the other side asked the comelec to do the same thing for them for some 1,700 "members" who could not vote.

What did Avecilla do? His comelec ruled that all the members whose eligibility to vote were questioned, well, should be allowed to vote, period, end of story.

* * *

IN effect, the elections were not yet over. More members must cast their votes. At the same time, cases were still pending in court.

All of a sudden, the Gonzales group asked the comelec to disregard their motion to allow more members to vote. In short, to them, the elections were done.

Without much ado, thank you, the Gonzales group declared themselves the winners. Of course the comelec did not agree.

And here is what Avecilla had to say about his experience: "In any electoral contest, the comelec cannot please everybody." Amen.

"I stopped touching her."
I didn't want to be in that situation again.

IT'S NOT that I didn't want to make *love*... I just could *not*... and I avoided showing affection, fearing things might lead *somewhere*...

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Philippine Marketing Association, Inc.

MESSAGES

WARMEST congratulations to the Philippine Marketing Association as we celebrate July 2003 National Marketing Month.

I welcome your holding of the Third Strategic Marketing Lecture for Students as well as the week-long exhibit as part of your efforts toward quality marketing education and Philippine business growth. Your striving for greater professionalism in the marketing profession is helping our nation win the war on poverty and achieve global competitiveness.

Our country has a deep reservoir of top caliber marketing executives who promote a positive image of Philippine business and help our country attract more investments. I encourage you to persevere in achieving greater commercial success amidst our present economic challenges and opportunities. My administration fully supports the business community and marketing professionals in their efforts to promote quality business education, research, investments and effective marketing.

Let us reinforce our partnership for a bright and prosperous future for Philippine business and the nation.

Mabuhay!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

OUR warmest greetings to the Philippine Marketing Association in spearheading the celebration of National Marketing Month, which is being held for the first time this year.

The PMA has prepared month-long activities for the NMM celebration that includes a series of campus tours in the first half of July. It has staged a highly successful and high-tech StratMark Lecture Series at the PICC last July 18. Its regional chapters are also busy staging their own National Marketing Month events. Indeed, the whole commemoration is national in scope.

The PMA opens a Trade and Consumer Exhibit at the Glorietta Activity Center, which runs from July 21 to 26. It is fitting that the PMA names its exhibit The Marketers' Marketplace "A Celebration of Marketing Excellence," for indeed, that is what the event is all about. With past Agora winners as the main exhibitors, we have an exhibit that showcases the best in Filipino marketing, ingenuity, creativity and business acumen.

I am pleased to see the handiwork of the PMA in this exhibit. For, yes, the PMA has taken the lead in using the discipline of marketing as a catalyst for national growth and development.

We have often talked and boasted about the native "Pinoy" creativity and artistry. But it is only in the field of marketing that the line of new ideas and bottom line meet. I, therefore, salute and congratulate the Philippine Marketing Association for its untiring efforts to work together with the private sector, the government, NGOs and academe to achieve this unique synergy—and to produce results using the limitless capability of Filipino creativity.

"New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies". This is the theme of the PMA for 2003. With the PMA as the driving force in the Philippine marketing, I have no doubt that we can move on and adapt to the fast-changing rules of the marketing game.

To the PMA, our sincerest congratulations and best wishes.

MINA GABOR (*Sgd.*)
Founder and President

THE MONTH-long celebration personifies our year's theme "Emerging Challenges: New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies." For the great challenge is now to make a national celebration and sustain it for one month. The answer lies in the active collaboration and cooperation of the corporate sector, academe and the various regional PMA Chapters.

The NMM celebrations are marked by four major events. First, the campus tour, which covered 12 schools in Metro Manila, showcased the cooperation between the PMA, AME, and FJMA. Second, StratMark III showcased the fusion of technology and teamwork. The result was the historic first StratMark held through the power of videoconference. Speakers from Davao were able to deliver their message to the Manila audience and vice versa.

The two-venue StratMark, which was held in Manila and Davao, was also made possible by the active collaboration of the PMA Davao Chapter. Speaking of chapters, the other PMA Chapters—Subic, Cagayan de Oro, Bacolod, Cebu and of course Davao— staged their own NMM celebrations in their localities. This is the third set of events.

The fourth is the Trade and Consumer Exhibit, which opens today at the Glorietta. With Agora winners as the centerpiece, the exhibit lives to its name "A Celebration of Marketing Excellence."

May I thank and congratulate everyone who made this first NMM celebration a success. Thanks to our partners, the AME and FJMA. Kudos also to the various PMA chapters. My heartfelt gratitude goes also to our sponsors and exhibitors.

Finally, words alone cannot suffice to express praise and applause to the tireless men and women of the NMM Committee and the PMA Secretariat.

DR. LEONARDO R. GARCIA
President

I WOULD like to thank all of you who participated in this year's first-ever National Marketing Month celebration. All of you have helped greatly in making this event a resounding success. It was an honor for me to have worked with you.

I must admit that it is indeed a challenging feat, given the length of time and amount of preparation. Add to that is the primary challenge of completely reinventing the focus and format to make it truly a national event, surpassing the highly successful National Marketing Week celebration last year.

This year, we introduced several creative innovations.

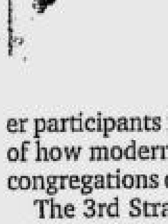
We kicked off the month-long event with a Campus Tour Lecture Series to 12 universities and colleges in the Metropolis. PMA's pool of speakers successfully shared their marketing prowess to students and academe.

It is also a first to hold the Strategic Marketing Lecture Series in two venues, Manila and Davao linked via videoconference. In Manila, the venue was the prestigious Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), while it was held at Marco Polo Hotel in Davao.

Today, we open the main event of the National Marketing Month celebration—a week-long Trade Exhibit showcasing the marketing circle's best. Dubbed as "A Celebration of Marketing Excellence," the exhibit highlights the past Agora Awardees as the showcase exhibitors. It certainly is a walk down memory lane. See for yourselves what made these companies the paragons of Marketing Excellence.

The Campus Tours. StratMark Lecture Series. The Trade Exhibit. Three Herculean feats for the NMM committee reflecting the PMA's theme: "New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies". Cheers and congratulations to all of us.

JOJO PUNSAL
Director-in-Charge
2003 National Marketing Month



GREETINGS from the 3rd Strategic Marketing Lecture Series, a major component of the National Marketing Month for July 2003.

As we embark on the 3rd StratMark, we all become active participants in crafting history. From the first in Ateneo and the second in Midtown, we anticipate attendance records to be surpassed within our third Stratmark venues, the Reception Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila and the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City.

With the technology of videoconferencing, we are able to bring together participants in the PICC with those in Davao City, in real time. We all become witnesses of how modern technology can actually bring our speakers to reach out to two separate congregations of eager listeners. Indeed, it is a small world after all.

The 3rd Stratmark Lecture Series, the campus tour, the exhibits and the different regional activities in Subic, Cebu, Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro and Davao ensure that the 2003 National Marketing Month is truly national in scope. We salute the energetic PMA Chapters nationwide for this achievement of an NMM which is truly national in coverage.

As we continue to enrich our wealth of knowledge and talents, the challenge is for all of us, in turn, to be able to make full use of these resources to touch and improve other people's lives in a wonderful way and then create a positive impact in the marketing profession.

More power to all of us. *Mabuhay ang Pilipino.*

EMMANUEL L. PENSON
Chairman

Celebrating National Marketing Month

JULY was declared the National Marketing Month (NMM) by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo via an Executive Order issued last year when she was invited as Guest Speaker during the National Marketing Conference sponsored by the Philippine Marketing Association. Hence, for this year, the Philippine Marketing Association, in coordination with the Association of Marketing Educators (AME) and the Federation of Junior Marketing Associations, has lined up a series of activities to meet the challenge of the NMM's 2003 theme of "Emerging Challenges: New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies".

The field of marketing is now facing new challenges. There is a need for the prime movers in the field of marketing like the business sector, the retail sector, and the consumer sector to work together with the government in building a healthy business environment for the country to attract investors, drum up the economy, and create new businesses and employment opportunities. More than ever, the Filipino marketers now play a significant role in selling the country's home grown products and promote our tourism industry. The task is to raise the level of competitiveness of the Philippines as an exporting country and eventually for the marketers to contribute to the elimination of poverty.

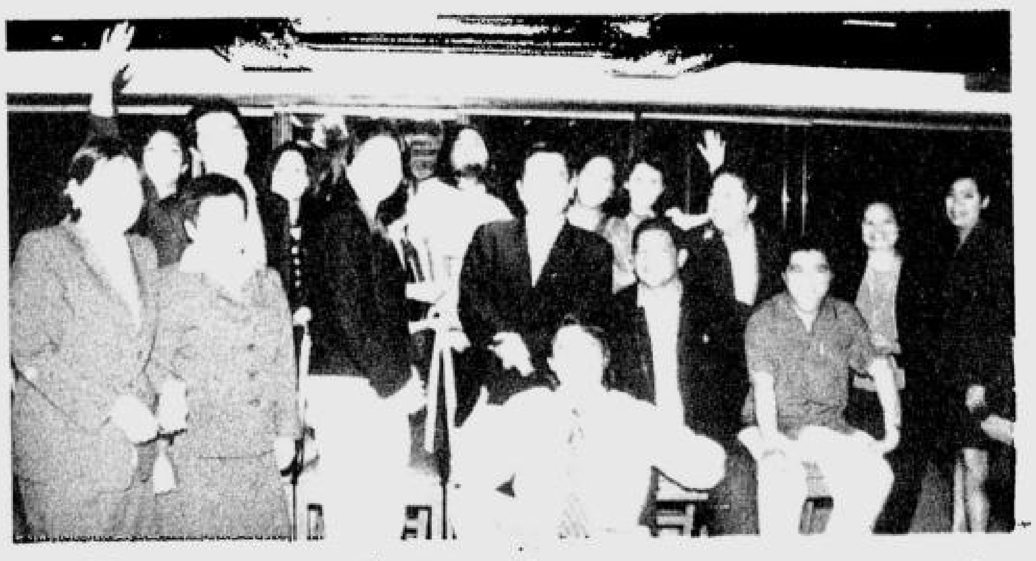
Today, new developments are transpiring in the business sector. Most manufacturing concerns are realigning their efforts in category brand building, retail institutions are installing web site marketing, advertising agencies are revolutionizing their structures now that the media department has split up to become media independents, while service business establishments are raising the bar of customer service to the new buzzword of "customer intimacy."

New curricular programs

In the academic communities, new curricular programs are offered to meet the challenge of providing a new breed of marketers who are more scientific in their approaches and practices of marketing. Hence, the traditional MBA programs are now complemented by Masters degrees in Marketing, Advertising, and Integrated Marketing Communications. In the region, the Asia Pacific Marketing Federation of which the Philippine Marketing Association is an affiliate member, has started certifying practitioners as CPM-Asia Pacific or Certified Professional Marketers.

With these developments and transformations, the celebration of the National Marketing Month becomes more relevant and appropriate. The Philippine Marketing Association, therefore, takes the lead in the month-long celebration, like the campus tours, public seminars by PMA Chapters in various parts of the country, the Strategic Marketing Conference for both academe and professionals at the PICC and a video conference at Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City on July 18, the trade exhibits at the Glorietta, and school marketing competitions.

The celebration of the National Marketing Month provides a venue for practitioners and academicians to be informed on the recent developments in the field of marketing and improve the practice of the profession. Hopefully, the message is to improve the craft of marketing and provide better products and services to the benefactors who are the Filipino consumers in particular and the country in general.



COMMITTEES IN ACTION

Shown are Philippine Marketing Association president Dr. Leonardo Garcia,Director in charge Jojo Punsal, Chair for exhibit Emmanuel Taña and chair for Stratmark Emet Penson, the secretariat and the committee members

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THE FIRST time is always the toughest time. I have been honored and privileged to be a part of the National Marketing Week celebrations in the past. But this year is the first time that the celebration is one month. It is the National Marketing Month.

To make the NMM celebrations truly meaningful, we committed ourselves to showcasing the best in the Philippine marketing. This gives flesh and spirit to what the celebrations is al about: we commemorate Philippine marketing's struggles and growth and its direction for the future.

Thus, in this year's trade exhibit, we have opted to highlight past Agora Award winners as they are acclaimed exemplars of marketing excellence. On one exhibit you can see for yourselves the "it" —what is "it" that made these companies and individuals stand out in marketing?

Indeed, as our theme goes "New Markets, New Rules, New Strategies." In the discipline of marketing, you have to come up with something new — or the market will not buy you anymore and go to another brand.

I take this opportunity to thank men and women in the National Marketing Month committee, who shared their talents and expertise—but especially their time to this worthy endeavor. They are my co-workers and friends.

My sincere thanks to the students, faculty members, FJMAers and professionals who attended the campus tour and Stratmark and helped make these events successful.

Thanks also to our sponsors, exhibitors and visitors to these trade exhibits. May you all have a great National Marketing Month.

JOSE EMMANUEL D. TANA
Chairman, Trade Exhibit

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s expected, StratMark III opped the ast two StratMarks ith an attendance of ,700 part cipants. Also there e two enue The Manila staging was held at the PICC Reception Hall I, and a confab was held on the same day at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City

2003 NATIONAL MARKETING MONTH COMMITTEE

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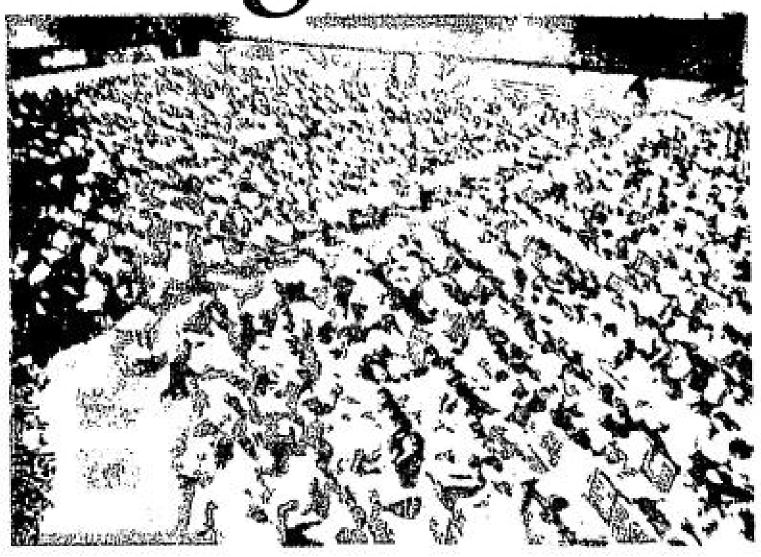
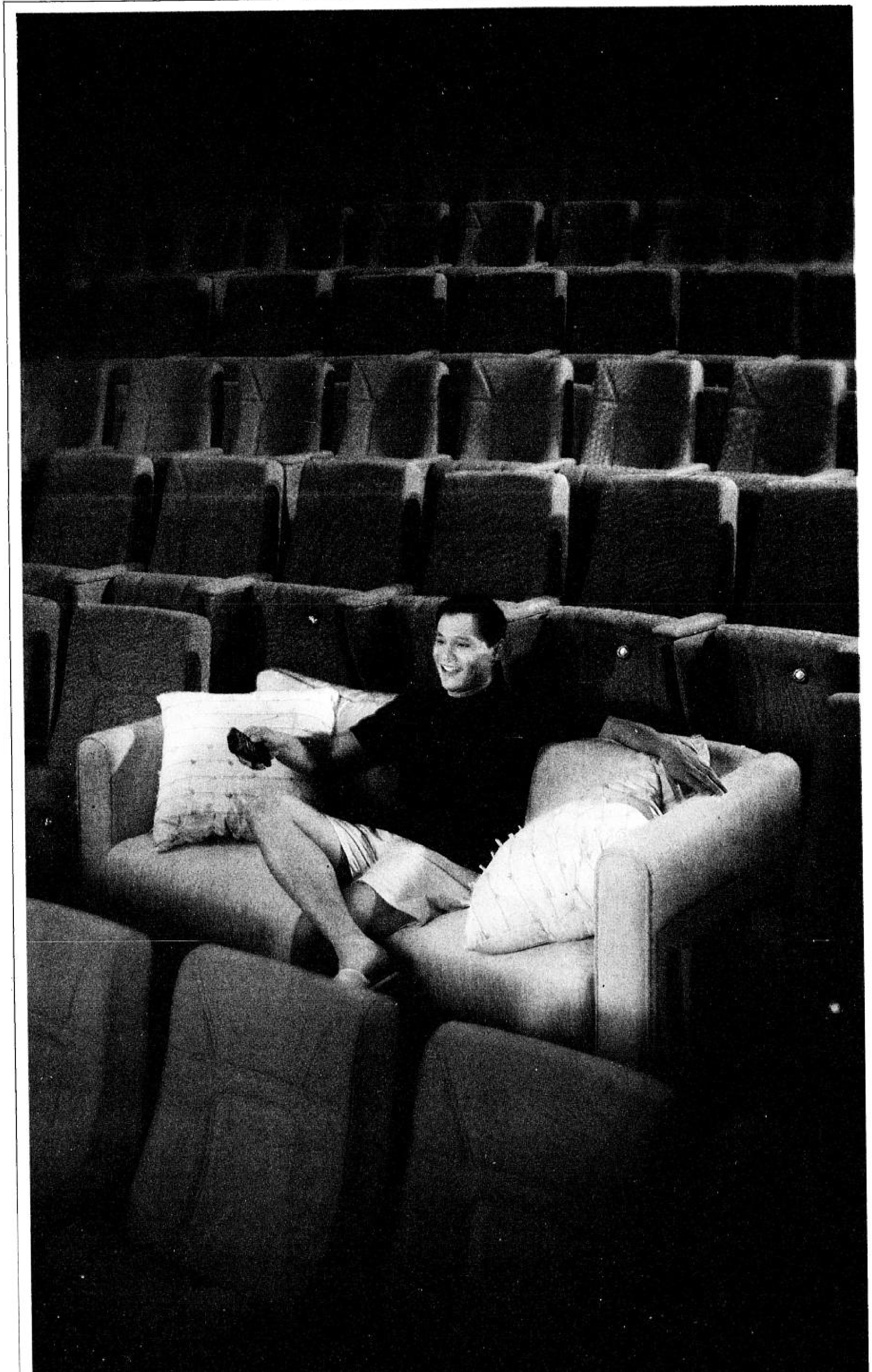
Stratmark III: High tech and national



ONE of the highlights of the National Marketing Month celebrations is the Strategic Marketing Lecture Series.

Dubbed as StratMark, for short, the past two stagings of the event have been successful with overflow crowds. In 2001, StratMark I was held at the Ateneo de Manila College Auditorium and it drew some 800 participants. The following year, 2002 NMW committee selected the grand ballroom of the Manila Midtown Hotel for StratMark 2002. The choice was appropriate as StratMark II drew close to 1,400 participants from Metro Manila and Luzon schools, who braved the heavy rains to attend the lecture series.

As expected, StratMark III topped the past two StratMarks with an attendance of over 2,700 participants. Also there were two venues. The Manila staging was held at the PICC Reception Hall I, which attended by about as 2,750 participants —and a confab was held on the same day at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City. The two lecture series were linked together through videoconferencing. This made StratMark III both interactive and national in scope.



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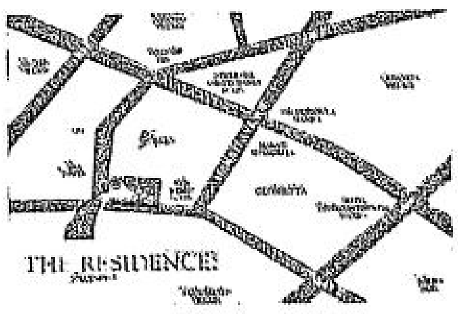

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Is breastfeeding still a healthy choice?

By Charles E. Buban

IN THIS age of career-oriented mothers and widely available advanced baby milk formulas, is there still room for good old-fashioned breastfeeding?

For thousands of years, mothers have relied on breast milk to ensure good health for their newborn. But the practice of breastfeeding, with all its healthful and economic advantages, has steadily declined over the years.

In fact, the World Health Organization reported that barely one in three infants born today is exclusively breastfed during the first four months of life, meaning nothing was fed to the infant other than breast milk except medicines and water.

"This is quite regrettable in view of the fact that the benefits of breastfeeding are well documented: it reduces the incidence of infection, prevents sudden infant death syndrome, prevents allergies and enhances cognitive development, to name just a few," noted the National Nutrition Council.

BREASTFEEDING—the tie that binds a mother and her baby.

PDI PHOTO

Women's changing role

According to the NCC, the reasons for the decline in breastfeeding include the growing participation of women in the labor force and the easy access to infant formula.

The NCC said that although most Filipino babies (89.7 percent) are still breastfed for some time, a National Demographic and Health Survey data indicated that supplementation with other liquids and foods occurs too early.

"Among newborns less than 2 months of age, 19 percent were already receiving supplemental foods or liquids other than water," the NDHS revealed.

The Nutritional Guidelines for Filipinos says infants should be breastfed exclusively from birth to 6 months, and then given appropriate foods while still breastfeeding.

This is why the NCC wants to reestablish the practice of breastfeeding among more mothers by focusing on the theme *"Kabataan palusugin, isulong ang breastfeeding"* during the annual celebration of Nutrition Month.

Promoting breastfeeding

The decline in breastfeeding in the country has also prompted the Department of Health to initiate the formation of the National Movement for the Promotion of Breastfeeding. It was intended to further strengthen existing laws such as Executive Order 51 of the Philippine Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes (Milk Code) and Republic Act 7600, or the Rooming-in and Breastfeeding Act, and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Milk Code, apart from protecting and promoting breastfeeding, ensures the proper use of breast milk substitutes and supplements when these are necessary.

RA 7600, on the other hand, aims to provide incentives to government and private health institutions that promote rooming-in and breastfeeding practices and infrastructure.

"We have enough laws already and we only need to pursue a more vigorous advocacy to encourage more stakeholders to participate and get involved in promoting breastfeeding," said the NNC.

Many benefits

The NCC said no gift is more precious for a baby than breast milk. Nutrition and nurturing during the first three years of life are crucial for lifelong health and the well-being of infants and young children.

In fact, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which also sponsors optimal infant feeding programs around the world, reported that breastfeeding drastically reduces illness and death from a wide variety of infectious diseases, especially diarrhea and pneumonia, two major baby killers in many countries.

It also reported that breastfeeding reduces ear infections and the occurrence of juvenile diabetes and certain cancers in the first 15 years of life.

"Breastfeeding is also associated with improved development, and, most recently, has been found to be associated with less obesity in children," USAID added.

Due to the healthy effects of breastfeeding, USAID estimated that at least five million infants are alive today who otherwise would have died from diarrhea and pneumonia.

Tips to ensure successful breastfeeding

THE FOLLOWING are some suggestions from the National Nutrition Council on how a mother can attain successful lactation:

- At the outset, you should believe in yourself and in your capacity to feed your baby. You should be relaxed and free from tension.
- Almost all mothers can produce enough milk as long as they feed the baby as often as needed. The baby's frequent suckling will further stimulate the production of milk.
- Breastfeeding should be initiated immediately after delivery— about 30 minutes after normal delivery and three to four hours after delivery by cesarian section.
- During breastfeeding, hold the baby close to your body, supporting the baby's neck and shoulders.
- You can place you nipple on the baby's cheek to make the baby turn and look for the nipple and grasp it by the mouth.
- Help the baby get enough milk by placing his lower lip toward the base of the areola. This assures that the nipple is at the center of the baby's mouth.
- Offer both breasts to the baby, one after the other at each feeding time. Allow the baby to suckle on each breast for about 5-15 minutes.
- During the next feeding, you should start feeding on the breast last used by your baby.
- If the baby is satisfied after feeding from only one breast, express the milk from your other breast. Then start feeding on this breast during the next feeding.
- Store expressed milk properly. Breast milk may be stored for three months in a freezer or 24 hours in a refrigerator.
- Working mothers should continue breastfeeding. Breastfeed the baby before leaving for work, after returning from work, at night and during weekends.

How 2 mothers hurdled the trials of breastfeeding

Bonding time for mommy and baby

By Amy R. Remo

THEY said it would hurt and it did—a lot.

I never gave much thought to breastfeeding until my baby and I went home from the hospital two days after her birth. My mom said it would hurt only a little and that I would get used to it in time.

But I never thought it was going to be a combination of agony and relief during my first three weeks of breastfeeding.

I decided to breastfeed because I felt it was the natural thing to do. Also, everyone, including my baby's pediatrician, my family, relatives and friends kept saying that breast milk would make my baby healthier and more resistant against infections.

It proved to be more difficult than I had expected.

As I cradled my daughter in my arms for her first feeding, I let out a shout of pain as she bit me (she didn't have teeth then, but it felt like so). I resisted the urge to let go and instead clutched her more tightly for fear of dropping her.

After a few days, I discovered small wounds on my breasts due to my baby's constant and vigorous sucking. It became so painful that even the slightest touch of the softest cloth would hurt. I would grit my teeth in pain every time my baby started sucking.

Wanting to give up

I wanted to give up breastfeeding and teach my baby to bottle-feed. But my mom forced me to endure the searing pain until my baby had contentedly sucked her hunger out. She said my baby's sucking would soon heal my wounds.

Besides, I felt relieved every time my baby would suckle because my breasts felt very heavy with milk.

My doctor told me it was good I had a lot of breast milk because my baby was allergic to cow's milk. Breastfeeding would prevent further allergies.

Then, after two weeks, I found myself looking forward to feeding my daughter every two hours, even during ungodly hours. I already got accustomed to the pain.

It was our little bonding time as mommy and baby. Every time I nursed her, I would coo and sing nursery songs to her. I would tell her my plans for her future, my adventures as a child, the toys, books and dresses I will buy for her when she grows up.

During those times, I truly felt that I was a mother.

Bottle feeding

But after a month, I had to cut short my breastfeeding because I had a cold. My doctor forbade me to breastfeed and told me to start bottle feeding my baby. I had to anyway, because I was going back to work soon.

It was pure agony for me to see my baby so hungry and helpless. She was crying so hard, her body racking with sobs. She settled for the bottle only when she was extremely hungry.

I had to change infant formula four times before finding the right one for her. The milk was not only hard to find, but very expensive as well.

After three days, I tried to resume breastfeeding but my baby flatly rejected me. I actually forced her to breastfeed but she would wail and flail her arms, struggling to get out my firm hug. She would suck a little milk but would let out a shrill cry afterward. I had no choice but to stop.

I felt hurt and left out. Didn't she want my milk anymore?

Now that my baby's 6 months old, I feel sorry that I wasn't able to breastfeed her longer. I would have braved all the pain of breastfeeding if only I could give her the healthiest milk approved by moms and doctors. Besides, I still have milk until now.

I felt I had cut short what could have been exclusively our bonding time.

Determined to breastfeed for a year

By Stella O. Gonzales

BREASTFEEDING is not easy. It needs a determined mother to make it work as I found out.

Yet, despite my hectic schedule as a news reporter, I was able to breastfeed my son for one year.

Deciding to exclusively breastfeed my son during his first three months was easy. All the health officials and doctors I was covering at the health beat when I was pregnant kept reminding me to breastfeed, for my child's sake.

But I soon learned that not all babies instinctively know how to suck. Those who don't, and my son was one of them, can cause the mother a lot of pain. It was providential that I had earlier read a breastfeeding manual which illustrated how a mother was supposed to make sure that the baby sucks the entire areola, and not only the tip of the nipple.

A breastfed baby also feeds more often than a bottle-fed infant because breast milk is more easily digested. More feeding meant less time to do my other work (although it also meant more bonding time with my baby).

A lot of patience, support

Breastfeeding, I also learned along the way, requires not only the mother's patience but also the support of people around her.

When the baby cries at the top of his voice, demanding to be fed, and the mother's body is still contorted with the pain of having just delivered the baby, the rest of the family should stop pressuring the mother to give infant formula to the newborn.

When I found myself in this situation, I refused to succumb to pressure. I was doing what was best for my son; there was going to be no infant formula for him—not at such early age.

I also learned that I could not leave my baby for long. After only a couple of hours of not breastfeeding, my breasts would be too heavy with milk and that was quite uncomfortable.

I remember my first day back at work after my three-month maternity leave. I was away for three hours and I forgot to bring my breast pump. Because I was out in the field, I could not even manually express my breast milk. My breasts were sore; my back hurt; I felt feverish; and I was crying from the pain.

I never left home without my breast pump after that.

Saving breast milk

For the next nine months I would express my milk at night and leave the milk in a feeding bottle in the freezer. My mom would feed my son the thawed breast milk while I was away.

I also expressed my milk at work.

There was no problem doing that at the health beat. Most of the reporters and staff at the Department of Health were women, and a separate room was made available for me.

But after a few months, I was assigned to the justice beat where the only private area was the toilet inside the press office. So after every few hours, I would bring my small plastic container filled with ice, lock myself in the toilet, and pump my breast milk into a feeding bottle.

Not one of the male reporters—there were only two of us female reporters there—asked me what I was doing. I think they somehow knew and they decided to respect my privacy.

By the time I was assigned to yet another beat, my milk supply was already dwindling. My son had already celebrated his first birthday and it was time to stop breastfeeding him.

Whenever I look back at all the sacrifices I made (including having to breastfeed in a public place), I take pride in what I did. And I never fail to remind my pregnant friends and colleagues to breastfeed, even for just a few months.

Health workers to help smokers kick the habit

By Tessa R. Salazar

THERE are two types of smokers: one who can quit and the other who can't. The second type needs clinics to help kick the habit. But where do such smokers turn to when only a few hospitals in the country have smoking cessation clinics, and all are based in Metro Manila?

Republic Act 9211, the Tobacco Regulation Act, requires the Department of Health to set up smoking cessation programs and clinics.

At present, the only hospitals known to have smoking cessation clinics are the Philippine General Hospital, Lung Center of the Philippines, University of Sto. Tomas and the Makati Medical Center.

The DOH says government health centers are the ideal places to institute smoking cessation clinics because these centers cater to the public. But before this could be done, healthcare providers would have to be trained for effective smoking cessation services.

The DOH will be training the frontliners—the doctors and the health education and promotion officers—in the regional health centers. The World Health Organization will be the funding agency, while the DOH and the Philippine Cancer Society will be in charge of the modules.

Dr. Ernie Vera, division chief of the DOH's program development division, said that from the regional health centers, smoking cessation clinics will be put up in government hospitals and then in rural health units and health centers.

Sylvia Palma of the PCS said an orientation of administrators was held on June 16. It included public health, clinical procedures and counseling.

DIONI BUCCAT

ILLUSTRATION: DIONISIO BUCCATT III

The next step will be the training of medical specialists and health education and promotion officers. It will be held on Aug. 25-29.

Counseling is better

Experts say smoking cessation clinics have yielded more successful quitters through counseling compared to medical intervention because medicines are expensive.

Vera said the smoking cessation program will thus have to focus first on counseling methods. There is, however, a possibility that drug companies will be invited to participate in the program so that counseling could be combined with pharmacology.

"Our budget is limited and we will be buying expensive drugs, yet we are not even sure if the person who would be taking these would finish the course," said Vera.

"Assuming that I have P5 million and I have to choose between Zyban (for smoking) and vaccines for children or tuberculosis drugs, which should be the priority?" he asked.

Zyban costs about P60 to P70 per tablet. A person normally takes two tablets a day for nine weeks to help him quit smoking.

Smoking increases bad cholesterol

BAD CHOLESTEROL
DIONISIO BUCCAT

ILLUSTRATION: DIONISIO BUCCATT III

ROGER S. is a 57-year-old writer. He's generally conscious about his health; in fact, he's a vegetarian. He does not drink alcohol. He exercises regularly.

It came as a big surprise when he found out that he had alarming levels of total cholesterol and the bad type of cholesterol, or LDL-cholesterol. Aside from possible genetic predisposition, the only risk factor that his doctor could think of was his heavy smoking. He used to smoke two packs daily.

With painstaking efforts, Roger gradually reduced his smoking, and took the medicine his doctor prescribed him. After three months, he has completely kicked the habit. Repeat cholesterol tests done two months later showed normal results.

Risk factor

Scientific data show that smoking is not only a risk factor in itself but it can cause or worsen other risk factors like abnormal cholesterol levels. Smoking is found to alter the lipid profile in the body. It increases the levels of the bad cholesterol (LDL), while decreasing the levels of high-density lipoprotein (HDL), the good cholesterol.

The latest survey reported by Tobacco Free Asia revealed that 33 percent of the country's adult population currently smoke and another 13 percent count themselves as former smokers. But the bigger problem, according to health experts, is that passive smokers in the country are estimated at 35 million. These are the nonsmokers who inhale secondhand smoke.

Deaths

More than 20,000 deaths from various causes are attributed to smoking every year, with the number of smoking-related deaths expected to rise steeply over the next few years.

The American Heart Association notes that smokers' risk of heart attack is more than twice that of nonsmokers. Cigarette smoking is the biggest risk factor for sudden cardiac death. Smokers who have a heart attack are more likely to die and die suddenly, within an hour, than nonsmokers.

Smoking is associated with the world's top killers: lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and heart diseases. The good news though is that it is within one's control to change or modify this risk factor. In other words, millions of lives can easily be saved just by the decision not to light another cigarette stick.

Cholesterol

Abnormal level of cholesterol is considered a major risk factor of heart disease which can be aggravated by smoking. Cholesterol, a fat-like substance, clogs up in the walls of the arteries and blocks blood flow to the heart, causing the hardening of arteries, and eventually heart attack.

LDL cholesterol is the main source of buildup on the blood vessel walls. HDL cholesterol carries cholesterol back to the liver and prevents buildup on the blood vessel walls; hence, it's called the good cholesterol.

Lifestyle changes

Treatment guidelines recommend lifestyle changes, including smoking cessation, as the primary treatment for high cholesterol. Heart experts though concede that not everyone can reach target cholesterol levels by lifestyle change alone.

"Smokers are not expected to quit at the snap of a finger and fast-food aficionados can't be expected to become vegetarians instantly," says Dr. Gregorio Patacsil Jr., past president of the Philippine Heart Association. He adds that long-term adherence to dietary and other lifestyle changes are difficult to implement, even in well-monitored patients. This is where drug therapy comes in.

Most potent drug

Statins are the most potent cholesterol-lowering drug in the market today and one of the most scientifically documented drugs of this class is simvastatin. One of the major studies on simvastatin is the 20,000-patient Heart Protection Study (HPS) published in the Lancet. The study shows strong evidence that simvastatin, taken religiously for several years, cuts the risks of heart attacks and strokes in the high-risk population particularly diabetics.

Heart experts believe that with its regular use, a lot of heart-related deaths may be prevented. Statins, however, come at a high cost. The cost of statins poses a challenge for high-risk patients with an average income.

Therapharma, a division of Unilab, has introduced an affordable brand of simvastatin (Vidastat). This move has paved the way for the reduction of prices for these types of drugs which redound to the benefit of the patients.

DIONI BUCCAT

Talking with parents

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

PERHAPS the biggest joy of being a columnist is receiving letters and e-mails from readers, much like opening Christmas presents every day. However, this is also the biggest burden, since due to space constraints, I am not able to answer a great number of queries (or if I do, the answers are delayed, as I operate on a first-question, first-answer basis). I try to address the most interesting, most cogent and most urgent matters, but it seems every missive is equally important.

Parents make up a significant amount of letter-senders. They want to know the secrets of good study habits, they would like their children to succeed in school, they confess to harboring math anxiety themselves, and so on. I have tackled these issues a lot of times, but they keep surfacing. Directing parents to my previous writings often works, but often I believe that for habits to become ingrained, I have to keep emphasizing similar points over again.

Thus a special venue for conversing with parents is especially welcome. This month I am starting a column in the monthly magazine for working parents—Metro Working Mom.

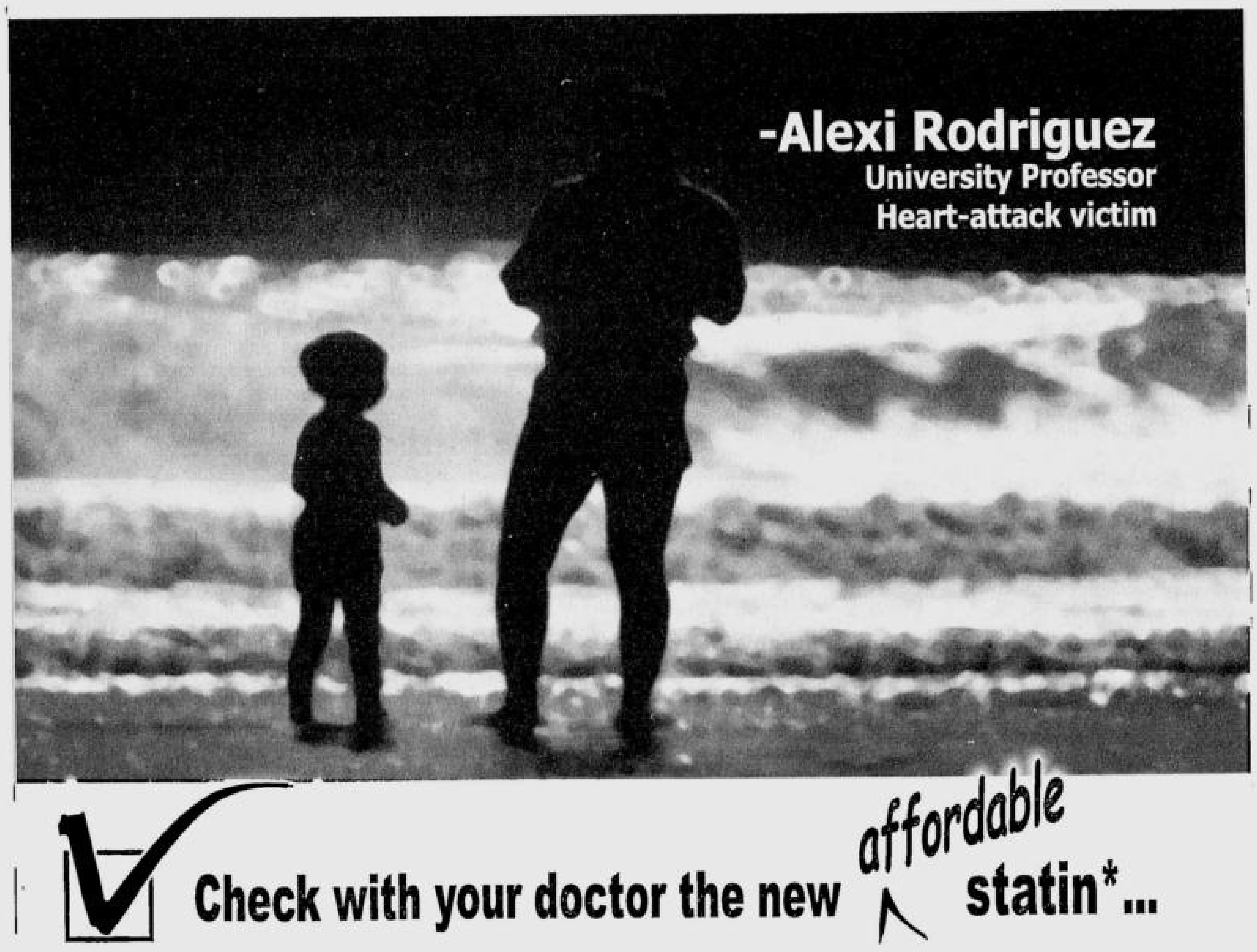
Dubbed "Homework," my column aims to address the need of parents (especially working parents) to aid in their child's progress through school. As I write in the introduction to the column: "One inescapable fact is that parents (or other concerned caregivers) are integral to children's success in school. Much research has shown for instance, that regular parental monitoring of homework (versus say, mass tutoring) is a significant factor in a child's scholastic success, not to mention his conduct in class and ensuing self-esteem. Of course, in today's rapidly evolving world, mere parental presence may not be enough. Parents who are cognizant of topics like multiple intelligences, study habits, and educational-yet-fun software can more naturally enhance and encourage their children's learning.

"But in the plethora of novel, high-tech or plain faddish learning guides and aids, how can working mothers (and fathers) keep track not only of what is classic and essential, but also what is new and may be appropriate for their children? Declining academic standards coupled with stiff workplace competition have made many parents anxious about their children's school performance—and what is more important, their actual learning. (In the mid-1990s the Third International Mathematics and Science Study revealed that Filipino elementary school students scored third from the bottom, yet most companies nowadays require proficiency with analysis and computers, both of which are ideally honed in math and science subjects.)

"This column, 'Homework,' aims then to address this need—the desire of working parents to provide the best for their children, to enhance their scholastic performance, and to ensure as much as they can that learning can be enjoyable in the process. Yes, perhaps there may be some things beyond our control, but together we can try to work something out. Sure, terror teachers exist, even in elementary grades, but strategies for parent-teacher communication may help (we will tackle this in a future column) and parents can (and should) often supplement classroom learning. One dedicated elementary teacher once confided, 'Often parents think we can work miracles. They throw their child into our school, and expect us to make him get A's, behave properly, and be happy. We try our best, but then what role is there left for the parents to play?'"

What role, indeed? Perhaps the role of hands-on, involved, active adults who are proactively concerned with the development of their children. I thank An Mercado-Alcantara, editor in chief of Metro Working Mom (my batchmate in the Ateneo and a good friend to boot) for providing still another venue for discussing matters important to all of us parents. See you in Homework!

"After my heart attack,
I thought I'll never see
my grandson again.
With my anti-cholesterol statin*,
I'm looking forward
to his college graduation!"



-Alexi Rodriguez
University Professor
Heart-attack victim

☑ Check with your doctor the new affordable statin*...

Now for Life!

Recent landmark trials have shown the beneficial effects of the cholesterol-lowering drug known as statins.[1]
Statins help prolong lives, lower heart-related deaths, prevent heart attacks and strokes...
only IF they are taken for at least 3 years, religiously.[2]
COST of statins though is a big barrier to compliance.

REFERENCES:
1 Kjekshus et al. Reducing the risk of Coronary Events: Evidence from the Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study (4S) Am J Cardiol 1995; 76:64C-68C,
2 Heart Protection Study Collaborative Group MRC/BHF Heart Protection Study of cholesterol lowering with simvastatin in 20,536 high-risk individuals: a randomized placebo controlled trial. The Lancet 2002 July; 360 (0236): 7-22.

* This class of drug is approved for sale by BFAD as a prescription drug and should be bought only with a prescription.

A public health service announcement from the cardiovascular division of United Laboratories, Inc.
therapharma
Your partner in cardiovascular healthcare.

2.6 Earths more needed for comfortable living

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

TOPFER

SYDNEY—If all 6.3 billion people were to live like an average person does in developed countries, the world will need an additional 2.6 Earths to support us all.

This was revealed by United Nations Undersecretary General and United Nations Environment Program (Unep) executive director Klaus Topfer who warned that the human race is consuming the planet's limited resources at an alarming rate.

"When you consider that the world's population has doubled to over six billion in the last half-century, and is currently growing by over 77 million a year, and that during the same period gross world product has expanded sevenfold, it is obvious that radical solutions need to be found—quickly—if we are not going to consume our planet's resources and condemn even more people to lives of poverty and misery," he said.

Speaking before delegates to the Eco-Innovate 03 Forum sponsored by Unep, Bayer and the University of New South Wales, Topfer stressed that something must be done to bridge the gap between how the poor and the rich consume resources.

Lopsided consumption

Topfer said the poorest 40 percent of the world's people account for only 11 percent of world consumption, while the top 15 percent account for 56 percent of consumption.

"The poor deserve the same aspirations of long life and prosperity enjoyed by the majority of people in developed countries," Topfer added.

According to Agenda 21—the blueprint for sustainable development agreed upon during the 1992 Earth Summit—the major cause of the global environment's deterioration is unsustainable consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries.

Topfer said the world must find a way to provide all people with what they need without exhausting the earth's resources.

According to Topfer, poverty is one of the most toxic elements in the environment.

"We must be aware that only a fraction of the foreign direct investment around the world reaches the poorest countries, particularly those in Africa, and the promises made during the Rio Earth Summit of increased overseas development assistance have not materialized," he said.

Trade barriers also prevent access to markets for many products from developing countries, he said.

Implementing treaties

The solution, suggested Topfer, lies in sustainable consumption and production.

"We now have hundreds of declarations, agreements, guidelines and legally-binding treaties. Let us now find the political courage and the innovative financing needed to implement these deals," he said.

The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development drafted last year in South Africa called for a 10-year framework of programs in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift toward sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Topfer lauded some countries for implementing green procurement policies, creating financial incentives for sustainable consumption, raising people's awareness, promoting better products, services and infrastructure, and supplying information tools.

He said Australia has sustainable consumption policies like household recycling programs, an energy consumption labeling program, taxation on leaded gasoline, subsidy on the installation of solar hot water heaters, a consumer education program and legislation on ozone-depleting substances.

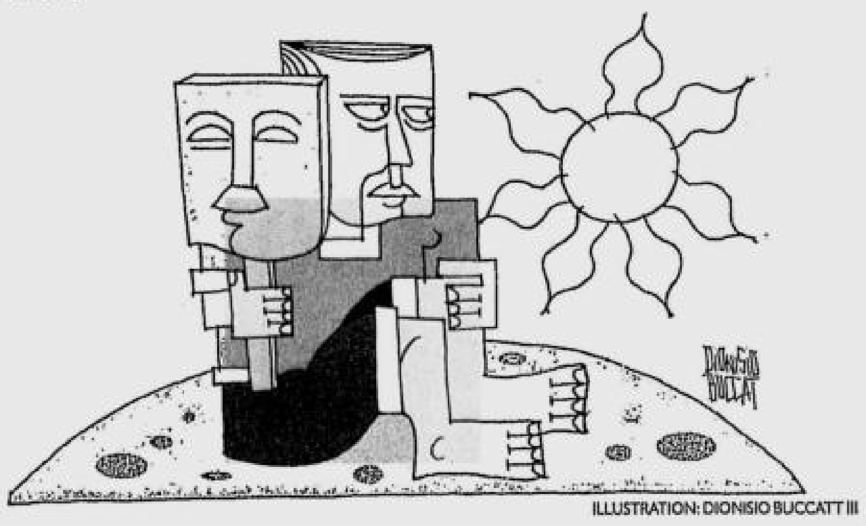


ILLUSTRATION: DIONISIO BUCCATT III

Happiness not always a warm gun

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

YOUR alarm didn't go off at 5 a.m. today, or maybe it did and you fell back asleep and then woke up at 6, by which time there was too much traffic for you to get from Alabang to Quezon City but you tried anyway because you had a presentation due at 9 and you just had to be there so you made it by 9:30 somehow, although you were tired and sweaty when you arrived because driving would have taken longer so the presentation didn't go very well and you started to head back home but now it's raining and you don't have an umbrella and you'd forgotten to recharge your phone last night so you can't ask a friend for a ride back and it's storm signal No. 2 and you're traveling by bus and jeepney over flooded roads and you get back home and find your dog's been vomiting all day and you try the vet but he won't tell you what's wrong with her or even tell you what to do until you can see him and you hang up and curse him and look helplessly at the dog and look around and then realize that she must have eaten some rat poison and you start calling anyone who can get hold of a vet to get you a prescription and by 10 p.m. you see the dog sleeping and realize she's not dead, just sleeping, and you collapse on your bed and wake up at 5 when the alarm goes off and the dog's looking better and you can keep her company all day because you have nothing planned, which is good because you've come down with a cold.

The point of the extremely long run-on sentence (eat your heart out Faulkner) is that stress causes illness. This is probably nothing new; haven't you heard it said whenever you pulled an all-nighter in college or when people explained away someone's illness—say, cancer—as the result of too much stored anger and negative emotions?

Colds and stress

Dr. Sheldon Cohen, a psychologist at Carnegie Mellon University, has been saying this for years, although it's his most recent paper on the relationship between the common cold and stress that's brought him back into the spotlight.

In the July edition of the journal Psychosomatic Medicine (the title is extremely apt), Dr. Cohen and his colleagues examined over 300 healthy volunteers three nights a week for two weeks. Participants were asked to rate their daily levels of positive (i.e., calm) and negative (i.e., anxiety) emotions before having one of two rhinoviruses squirted into their nostrils.

Researchers then observed who came down with a cold, and compared the symptoms and severity of the cold with the personality profiles of the participants.

What Cohen et al. found was that people who had more positive outlook on life were less likely to catch a cold, and if they did, the cold wasn't as severe as it was for those who had less rosy outlooks on life.

However, as Dr. Cohen notes that "a negative emotional style had no effect on whether or not people got sick," maybe the glass-half-full types are better off because they admit to eating healthier and exercising more. Or maybe being happy keeps people from stressing and negatively affecting the immune system.

Happy at work

At any rate, being happy is good for both body and mind, which helps in making friends and influencing people. This leads to the next question: how exactly does one stay happy at work?

In last month's issue of the Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin, Ariel Malka, a Ph.D. psychology candidate, and Jennifer Chatman, director of the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley, had 124 Berkeley MBA graduates fill out surveys about health, income and job satisfaction while they were still students (from 1986 to 1991) and then again in 1995 when they all had jobs.

While people at lower-income levels equated money with happiness because the money guaranteed shelter, food and other basic necessities, not all those who reported substantial incomes said they were happy.

Malka theorizes that for people who enjoy their work and all the challenge and excitement it entails, being paid for something they like doing may actually lessen their job satisfaction.

Chatman says that "we all need to feel that we are not just doing the work for the money."

To sum up then, the moral of today's column is this: being happy keeps you from being sick, which would make you less happy anyway.

And if you want to know how to find happiness at work, consider these words from Malka: "Will having lots of money impact your well-being enough to justify you spending two hours a day, every workday, doing something you hate?"

(The author may be reached at massie@massie.com.)

Ateneo project uplifts rural health milieu

A HOLISTIC approach to alleviate health problems in rural communities has yielded encouraging results since its initiation over a year ago. Developed by the Health Unit of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, the Leaders for Health Project (LHP) is conducted in partnership with the Department of Health through the Doctors to the Barrios Program and Pfizer Inc. through the Pfizer Foundation.

LHP helps rural communities improve overall health outcomes by addressing issues of poverty, leadership and governance. The project aims to form a corps of leaders in health through several learning interventions.

Doctors assigned as municipal health workers in far-flung municipalities take on an academic program that when completed earn them a Master in Health Care Management degree.

Meanwhile, the municipal mayor and community leaders undergo Capacity Enhancement Workshops that cover essential attitudes, skills and knowledge that the leaders need in decision-making, planning, implementation and advocacy of health issues. The project's success lies in the learning of rural doctors, municipal mayors or local chief executives and community leaders.

For its first phase, LHP has an initial set of doctor-volunteers from the Doctors to the Barrios Program fielded in 19 municipalities across Camarines Sur, Western Samar, Biliran and Surigao del Norte. The project's learners currently number 19 municipal mayors and 38 community leaders representing NGOs and people's organizations within these municipalities. Pfizer Foundation provides the necessary financial and logistical support for project operations.

Issues of leadership and governance are addressed by mobilizing various sectors to assume responsibility for health, recognizing that desirable health outcomes cannot depend on doctors, medicines or even technology alone.

"This initiative underscores the mediating role that a learning institution like the Ateneo de Manila University must play in the development process," said Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, dean of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business. "It seeks to improve health outcomes by clarifying, broadening and deepening people's understanding of health as the basis for action and behavior."

The LHP has received accolades like the Anvil Award and was recognized by the Benigno Aquino Foundation as a project that has lived out the spirit of people power.

JOINING former President Corazon Aquino during Ateneo's Leader for Health forum are, from left, Pfizer president and country manager Rey Bacarro, AGSB Dean Alfredo Bengzon and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Gingivitis

IS there a cure for gingivitis? I am only 21 years old and I am afraid to loose all my teeth.

—Rosie E.

If your gums bleed and are swollen then you have gingivitis. The gums bleed primarily due to a lot of food and plaque at the gumline area. This situation is irritating to the body, prompting it to send blood cells to the gumline area.

Fortunately gingivitis is reversible. You have to go back to the basics of oral hygiene. Brush after every meal and floss once a day. Brushing should include the gumline.

Also, do not forget to see your dentist for professional cleaning every six months. If you would like to move up the hygiene ladder, use an oral irrigator once a day.

(E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.)

Gear up your digestive tract

THE RAINS bring relief from the heat but at the same time it provides the moist environment for disease carriers such as insects and pests to thrive. If we are not careful, we may eat the food or drink the water that they have contaminated. Then we end up in a hospital bed, the place we least like to be in when the weather is cool, and all our precautions for the season come to naught.

Experts advise that we keep a keen eye on our health during the wet season. Water-borne diseases such as diarrhea are the most likely to strike when we let our guard down. The most vulnerable is our digestive system because it receives whatever we ingest into our mouth.

As prevention is better than cure, we should practice good hygiene and eat food or drink beverages that are sure to be safe and clean. Drinking Yakult every day helps as it keeps our intestinal tract clean and free from all harmful bacteria.

Yakult contains about eight billion live *lactobacillus casei* Shirota strains, which have been scientifically proven for their health benefits. They have the ability to get past the digestive acids and reach the intestines alive and there perform their function of killing deadly pathogens or harmful bacteria that may upset our stomach or cause irritation in the intestines.

The live *lactobacillus casei* Shirota strain is the good bacterium that not only cleans the intestines but also induces proper digestion and normal bowel movement leaving in its wake a healthy digestive tract.

So, if you want to be sure of your wellness this rainy season, gear up from inside and go healthy all the way outside. Yakult's cultured milk, will ensure that you have that protection you need while you enjoy the rains.

New Vitamin C brand available

LA CROESUS Pharma recently launched Bevon C, a complete multivitamin supplement and the only Vitamin C with Lysine that helps protect the immune system and builds strong body resistance against infection.

Bevon C "has a high dose of Vitamin C, which prevents the replication of viruses, and lysine which is essential in blocking the spread of the virus through the connective tissue in the immune system" said the Dr. Rath Health Foundation, an organization of the world's health experts and medical practitioners which conducted research on various infectious diseases.

Women's 'big' and sometimes bad hearts

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

FOR MORE than 10 years, a near-senior male executive has been regularly going to our clinic for follow ups on his heart problem. His wife has always accompanied him. Our patient is doing well and his heart condition is pretty much stable.

A few months ago, his wife, who felt very healthy, never had any symptom and didn't have any heart checkup for as long as she could remember, suddenly developed chest pains and had a cardiac arrest.

Fortunately, she survived her heart attack. We felt somehow guilty that this woman, who's already past 50, had been coming to our clinic accompanying her husband yet she never received any reminder nor motivation from any of our staff to have a heart checkup herself. We've been emphasizing preventive medicine in our clinic and the incident was a big blow to our perception on how effective we are in our objective of preventing heart disease.

Healthcare professionals, myself included, seem to be under-evaluating and undertreating women when it comes to heart problems. The misconception that women are prone to other medical problems other than cardiovascular diseases is a major culprit.

Women not immune

Although the incidence of heart disease is relatively less in women than in men, the fairer sex is by no means immune to this problem.

According to foreign statistics last year, the death rate from heart disease was 328 in every 100,000 men, compared to 221 in every 100,000 women. This prevalence rate is high and should not make doctors and healthcare professionals treat women less aggressively than men.

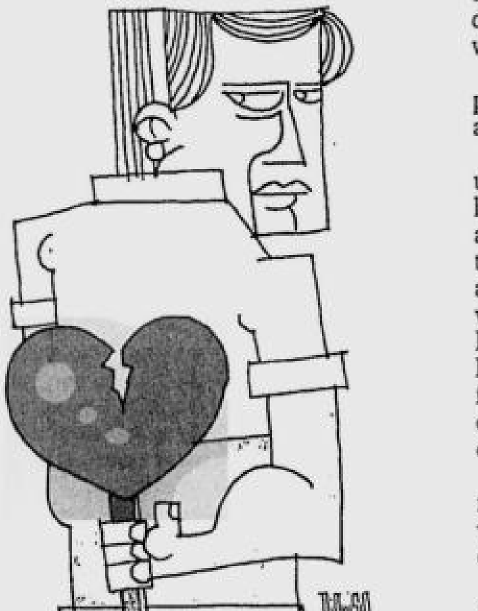


ILLUSTRATION: DIONISIO BUCCATT III

In the Jan. 20, 2003 issue of USA Today, the article titled "Study: Women Undertreated for Heart Disease" somewhat implied that women are being discriminated against in seeking life-saving treatment for heart disease. Other gender health advocates contend that women with heart symptoms are less likely to undergo advanced cardiac procedures such as cardiac catheterization to check on their heart condition.

Apparently, the statistics are bearing this out. The number of women undergoing more aggressive cardiac diagnostic and therapeutic procedures is much lower than what may be expected based on their incidence of heart-related deaths.

A possible reason is that women may have an atypical presentation of their symptoms. Those with undiagnosed heart disease often show symptoms that resemble heartburn, stomach upset, muscle pains or other noncardiac conditions. Thus, doctors are less likely to order cardiac diagnostic tests for these women.

Fortunately, the sex bias does not appear to result in catastrophic outcomes among women.

Dr. Sandra Gan published in the reputable New England Journal of Medicine her group's study on the treatment of acute myocardial infarction (heart attack) and 30-day deaths among women and men. She concludes: "Compared with men, women received somewhat less aggressive treatment during the early management of acute myocardial infarction. However, many of these differences are small, and there is no apparent effect on early mortality."

A more comprehensive risk assessment now being performed by clinicians would ensure that women with heart diseases are not underdiagnosed.

If a woman has two or more risk factors—more than 55 years old, smoking, hypertension, diabetes, obesity, abnormal cholesterol levels and strong family history of heart disease—she should always get the benefit of the doubt that she might have a heart problem even if she presents with atypical symptoms.

Some initiative, too, should come from the female patients themselves. They should realize that after menopause, the incidence of heart disease in women practically approximates that in men. At this age, the blood pressure starts to go up and metabolic problems, such as diabetes and abnormal cholesterol levels, develop.

The hormonal changes after menopause may be partly responsible. Hence, all these bodily changes and emergence of risk factors put women on equal footing as men in their susceptibility to cardiovascular ailments and complications, including sudden death.

Women owe it to themselves and their loved ones to have themselves checked. We all know that women in general have a "big" and loving heart. But we don't want them to have a bad heart.

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JOSE VILLAFLOR PANAGUITON, SR.

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on July 25, 2003 at 5:30 a.m. at the age of 89.

His bereaved children **EMILIA JOHNNY BLANCO, POMPEYO & BABY** with **FE TURRECHA** (†); **JOSEFELIA & ARTHUR, ERMA & EDUARDO, VIKKI & DON, JOSE JR., VALENTIN, & DINNAH, ERROL & MARICEL** and **CION** and **ROGER** by **FELICITAS** (†) and bereaved wife **NENA**; all grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 30, 2003 at the Heaven's Gate Memorial Park, Antipolo City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

VICENTA GALSIM-ERGUIZA

Died on July 24, 2003 in the Grace of our Lord

*Peacefully joined her husband **Col. Tomas C. Erguiza**, and her sons: **Tomas Jr.** and **Ernesto***

Her bereaved children and children-in-law: **Charito & MGen Alan D. Cabalquinto**, **Boy & Lorna V. Ferrer**, **Baby**, **Dittas** and **Roland & Luz Gabriola**; her beloved grandchildren **Abigail & Irene E. Cabalquinto**; **Gerrard Terrence**, **Camille** and **Gian Erguiza**; **Nikki**, **Ida & Irma Erguiza**; **Alvin**, **Andrea & Adrian Erguiza** and **Jake**; relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on July 27, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

GREGORIO A. HONRADA

Died on July 20, 2003 at the age of 86.

His bereaved wife **Eufrocina**; children **Lito & Nora**, **Myrna & Canding**, **Marilyn & Victor**, **Maureen & Boni**, **Madeline & Leonides**, **James & Fely**, **Leslie & Cora**, **Leonel & Myrna** and **Len & Nancy**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence in #313 San Antonio, Mexico, Pampanga.

Interment will be on July 27, 2003 at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park, City of San Fernando, Pampanga at 2:00 p.m.

CLEMENTE B. GOCHUICO

Died on July 23, 2003
at the age of 70.

His loving children **Arnold**, **Bernard**, **Carmelo**, **David** and **Edward**, and his grandchildren, sister **Belen Ong**, **Maria Gochuico** and brother-in-law **Pablo Ong** and other relatives mourn his passing and wish his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc., Guadalupe.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 27, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. after the mass at 8:00 o'clock.

"And, I will dwell in the House
of the Lord ... Forever." Psalm 23

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

Rosario Alarilla

She witnessed the unfolding of Philippine history for almost a century.

Rosario Altoveros Alarilla, mother of Meycauayan Mayor Eduardo "Eddie" Alarilla, died peacefully in her sleep Tuesday morning. She was 99.

The Alarilla matriarch is survived by her children **Lourdes, Maximo, Catalina, Primitiva, Ernesto, Renato**, their beloved in-laws and grandchildren.

A month after Inang celebrated her 99th birthday last March 20, Mayor Alarilla led the groundbreaking of the site for the new municipal building which the mayor dedicated to "the long cherished dream of her mother and most Meycauayeños."

Inang's remains lie in state at the Mayor's residence in Barangay Bancal. Interment will be on Saturday, July 26, at the Sta. Ana Memorial Park just across their residence after a necrological mass starting at 1 p.m.

CORAZON LIM UY

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on July 23, 2003 at the age of 90.

Her husband **Esteban Uy Pit Lok** (†); children: **Martin** (†) and **Aida**, **Felix**, **Margaret** and **Benito**, **Gilbert** (†); grandchildren: **Mitch** and **Cathy**, **Troy** and **Sheila**, **Russell**, **Twinkle** and **Warren**; **Benjie** and **Georgia**; **Debbie**, **Kathy**, **Marie**, **Carol**, **Gilbert Uy, Jr.**, **Gilbert Uy III** and **Catherine**; great grandchildren: **Lance**; **Nacho**; **Jason**; **Denise**, **Nikkie**; **Arf Arf**, **Tiny** and **Danielle**; **Nicole Marie**; and **Luki**.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 5 of the Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Q.C.

Interment to follow at the Chinese Cemetery on Monday, July 28, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Funeraria Paz.

God has you in His keeping, we have you in our hearts...

In Loving Memory of our Dearly Beloved

Dr. CESAR F. DE GOROSTIZA

on his 10th Death Anniversary

Relatives and friends may join in the celebration of the following masses offered for the eternal repose of his soul.

July 22, 2003	8:30 AM	**Our Lady of Peace Church** 15444 Nordhoff St., North Hills, CA
July 26, 2003	6:45 AM	**Parish of St. Paul the First Hermit** San Pablo City, Laguna
July 26, 2003	12:15 NN	**St. Andrew the Apostle Church** Nicanor Garcia cor. Kalayaan Sts. Bel-Air II, Makati City
July 26, 2003	6:00 PM	**National Shrine of the Sacred Heart** 4 Dao St., San Antonio Village, Makati City
July 26, 2003	9:00 AM	**St. Francis de Sales Church** 13360 Valley Heart Drive, Sherman Oaks, CA
July 26, 2003	4:00 PM	**St. Cyril of Jerusalem Church** 15520 Ventura Blvd., Encino, CA

Prayers and rosary will be said at the residence, Coldwater Canyon, Studio City, CA at 6 PM, July 26, 2003.

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love Him." — *I Corinthians 2:9*

CLASSIFIEDS

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

The National Food Authority (NFA) is inviting all Palay Farmers' Organizations (FOs), Farmers' Cooperatives (FCs), Farmers' Association (FAs) and Federation of Palay Farmers' Group (FPFGs) to participate in the distribution of imported rice under the ***"FARMERS as DISTRIBUTORS"*** (FAD) Program of the National Food Authority.

All interested parties are advised to accomplished a Letter of Intent (LOI), copies of which are available at the NFA Provincial Offices in their respective areas, to be submitted within five (5) days after the last day of publication. They should likewise meet the following qualifications:

- Must be registered with any of the appropriate registering agencies as listed below and must be operationally/actively engaged in rice retailing/wholesaling business at least from 2002 up to the present.
    - Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
    - Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
    - SEC, Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR)
    - Bureau of Rural Workers (BRW)
    - National Irrigation Administration (NIA)
- Must be a member of local farmers' action council or the Philippine Farmers' Advisory Board (PFAB).
- Must be holders of NFA license as wholesaler/retailer, and other incidental lines of activities, i.e., warehousing and transporting, if any.

For details, they may coordinate with the nearest NFA Office in their respective areas. For further inquiries, they may visit or contact NFA-DMO located at 5th Flr. Matimyas Bldg., 101-E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City with telephone nos. **712-1572, 712-1708** or **712-1564**.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARTHUR C. YAP**
Administrator

(PDI - July 26, 27 & 28, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites **G-EPS registered suppliers** to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **IT Requirements for the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) Computerization Project.**

The approved budget for this contract is **P55,241,000.00.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-bid Conference** that will be held on **AUGUST 7, 2003, 9:30 A.M., THURSDAY**, at the **PS Conference Room, Room 207, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **July 25, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Seven Thousand Pesos (Php 7,000.00).**

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the **Office of the Operations Manager** at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of proposals shall be on **AUGUST 21, 2003 at 9:30 A.M., THURSDAY.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone **nos. 561-60-98 or 563-94-02.**

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI – July 26 & Aug. 1, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 0000-784-336

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the supply of:

VARIOUS FARM MACHINERIES AND EQUIPMENT
(BRAND NEW AND RECONDITIONED)
for Sugar-ACEF Related Projects (5th Public Bidding)
Budget Allocation - Php32,385,486.00

Only pre-qualified bidders shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on September 25, 2003 at the SRA Social Hall of the Sugar Regulatory Administration, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City at 9:00 a.m.

Prequalification forms may be secured from the Secretariat, 3rd Floor, SRA Annex Building of the same address starting July 21, 2003 and the deadline for submission of said requirements shall be on August 11, 2003.

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on August 26, 2003. Thereafter, bid forms shall be issued for a non-refundable cost of Php 1,000.00/set.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on September 10, 2003 at the SRA Social Hall at 9:00 a.m

For inquiries, please call:

The Bidding Secretariat - Telephone No. 929-6837

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formalities or defect therein and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI - July 19 & 26, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : July 18, 2003
Loan No. : 1654-PHI: Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP)
IFB No. : ADB-VEH-SEDIP

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards financing the cost of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles.
2. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of Motor Vehicles for the following:

Item No.	Type of Vehicle	Qty.	Recipient Institutions
1	Asian Utility Vehicle	1	SEDIP-NPMO, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
2	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	SEDIP-NPMO, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
3	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Romblon, Romblon
4	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Masbate, Masbate City
5	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Negros Oriental, Dumaguete City
6	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Leyte, Tacloban City
7	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Southern Leyte, Maasin, Southern Leyte
8	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Biliran, Naval, Biliran
9	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of Zamboanga del Sur, Pagadian City
10	Pick-up, 4 x 4 Wheel-Drive	1	DepEd Division of North Cotabato, Kidapawan, Cotabato

3. The mode of procurement shall be through Local Competitive Bidding (LCB).
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents from the BAC Office, Ground Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel # 6321361 loc. 2019.
5. A Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **July 21, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos only (P300.00).
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than two percent (2%) of the total bid amount and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders on or before 2:00 p.m. on **August 18, 2003** and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines.
7. Prior to the bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on August 4, 2003 at the same time and at the address indicated in paragraph 6.
8. The DepEd reserves the right to accept and reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process at any time prior to the award of Contract without incurring any liability to the affected bidders and to waive any minor informality or non-conformity in a bid which does not constitute a material deviation, provided such waiver will not prejudice or affect competitive ranking of any bid.

(Sgd.) **USEC JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – July 19 & 26, 2003)

B14

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P. Tuazon / New York Street
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09163741571•09178102903

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RUSH SALE ! 2br frnt pool PRESEL Condo 200T CASH asume bal. direct buyer 9289828

PARANAQUE

3.8M neg. la68.5m² fa120m² 3BR 3TB w/grge 1 maids quarter 410-2073-Jimmy

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10% DP P9T/mo or 2Yrs No INT. AYALA PROJECT STUDIO-3BR ACROSS SM SUCAT 0917-8313226

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EAST ORTIGAS MANSIONS CONDO TOWNHOUSES ALONG ORTIGAS AVE. RENT-TO-OWN ANN 0920-2360920 / 656-1882

QUEZON CITY

Cubao P1.4m 10%DP 9132224

INVEST PRE-SELL EASTWOOD LIBIS 5YR PAY 634-9500

Nova, S.Bartolome N Point Village 2BR P780T 9220313

Rush! Fernandina 88 100sqm 4.5M Neg 3br 2tb 0917-8143792

•RUSHICUBAO TH 3BR 2T&B MAIDS RM GARAGE 9126653

Thse nr UP 2BR 9122304

LOT

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 25

LAS PINAS

METROCOR Back of SM 254sqm 4800/m² 800-4771

MAKATI

Nr. Ayala 300m² 0917-9160226

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LOT

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QUEZON CITY

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Nr Edsa Comm'l wide road 1000m² 15T/m² Call 645-3731

St Ignatius 600m² 4121825

VILLA ESPANA LA108.50m² P12,000/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RIZAL

Nr Felix Ave Vista V.Country Homes 200m² xP2500 9220313

TERESA 2 ADJACENT LOT 279SQM 1.5 HECTARES NR COTTON HILLS SUBD / CARISSA SUBD CALL 532-0210

OTHER AREAS

KINGSVILLE SUBD LA 397M² P4,250/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613/m² P2.284/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

•TAGAYTAY VIEW LOTS•
INTEREST-FREE 5yrs.
BROKERS WELCOME
524-7900 0917-5022722

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240sqm P3,125/sqm Vic 8903461 Loc. 27

BATANGAS

50,000m² Lot - Sto. Tomas Batangas - Price Nego Tel. 8105223 Fax 8403598

BEACH LOTS, LIAN 3,000m² P3,685/mo. No DP No Reqts Hermie0919-2907513/9341640

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P185.50/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

BULACAN

Marcela Subd adjacent to Palmera Northwinds SJDM Bulacan Vac. Lot320 Call Col.Bocalbos 8154774/7543537

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL LA4000m² P200/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

132m² ParkPlace Imus Cavite 6T/m² Malu 3726606 7838699

Bacoor 0498380069 09174165298

LAGUNA

BRENTVILLE 462m² DB ONLY 897-8098 / 09178165684

MILLWOOD SUBD LA100m² P3,500/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m² LA240m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

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BATAAN nr BEPZ 331has. Financer Only 0919-2221766

PIGGERY BULACAN W/ECC P4M 2884m² 9522109 NEG

SAN MIGUEL LA4000m² P200/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL Btngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m P185.50/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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MAKATI MLA 6Tup 09173449895

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PACIFIC PLAZA CONDO
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MANDALUYONG

2BR WACK' 20T 0918-9420180

PASIG

ORTIGAS CTR 1BR UNFURN 17T 4121825 0917-7914366

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2Bdrm/ U/Dn T8973770 / 1Cr StgH2O/Npnt/Screen/Cmpd

MANILA

2BR&1BR Pandacan 8426009

MANDALUYONG

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CONDO TYPE NICE 4009293

QUEZON CITY

34 YALE CUBAO 9310449

Cubao P3.5 Std Lady 9124428

Nr SM CITY P4500 9271821

RIZAL

KAPITOLYO 2sty 2BR w/ carport P10T/mo 926-5264

SAN JUAN

Bful 3BR2TB P10T 7008515

ROOM & BOARD

Prof. Ldy nr SM Bicutan 0920-6267473

w/Kit&BathRm 09193913655

PROJ3 STYPE LADY 9137513

BEDSPACE

Rm. BSpace TIP Cubao 4377657

BUSINESS RENTAL

Commercial Space for Rent T.Sora Ave 9246819/4542847

DRUG STORE SPACE 25SQM ALONG BONI 5320210

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st Class bldg 85/129/148/185m 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

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MERCEDES

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MITSUBISHI

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- El Jardin del Presidente
- Golf Hill Terraces

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- Two Lafayette Square
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- Ritz Towers
- Elizabeth Place
- The Manhattan Square
- Pacific Plaza, Fort Bonifacio
- Essensa Tower

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- The World Centre
- Paseo Center
- Burgundy Corporate Center
- Citibank Tower
- PhilAXA Tower
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BMW R50S 350,000Th 541-1775 0916-2422843

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

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2% w/o Taking Car 7221021

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 6560140

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

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CAR LOAN

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B/SELL EDUCL PLAN 8061574

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public of the loss of the Republic of the Philippines Official Receipt Nos. 5687118 to 5687150 allotted to PALAWAN STATE UNIVERSITY with main campus at TINIGUIBAN PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN, Tel. Nos. 433-2379.

The Heads of all government agencies and all others concerned are also warned against accepting and/ or using any official receipt bearing the above-mentioned serial numbers. Any transaction made by any person or government agency using any of the above receipts are deemed void.

(Sgd.) TERESITA L. SALVA
University President

(PDI – July 25, 26 & 27, 2003)

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S.S. STEAM JACKETED KETTLE capacity 5-500 gals
TOKYO DENKI UNIVERSAL SHRINKER capacity
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FREEZER DRIER "STROKES 7 1/2 hp
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CHILLER/FREEZER 2, 3 & 4 4-door UPRIGHT
STAINLESS CHILLERS, CHEST TYPE
BATTERY LITTER 850kg, 350kg & 150kg
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5 hp, 3 hp, 1 hp
TABLETTING MACHINE MANESTY 27 stations, 2 colors
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ANGLE BAR 10" X 100mm SHEAR NOTCH
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GREG 0919-697-6878 / 714-7038 / 714-6610

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of Petron Corp Stock Cert. # 854471 1261371, 1465416 w/ 3000 shrs and 71066; 741276; 1249406; 146547 w/3000 shrs under the name of Carlos B. Andres. If no contest rec'd on or bef Aug. 9, 2003 new stock cert. will be issued & transferred to Maria Elizabeth Andres Palencia, legal & sole heir of Carlos B. Andres.
(PDI-July 26, Aug. 2, & 9 2003)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. Persons must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this soon as your favor has been granted. Thank you Holy Spirit for granting my petition. - JYT

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

B/SELL EDUC PLAN 7800106

Service Technician

Description: a trading company engaged in the supply of beverage dispensers, has immediate job opening for Service Technician.

Skills Required: Qualified candidates will have a Mechanical Engineering Background or at least 1 year hands-on experience in Refrigeration Service. Strong understanding of refrigeration theory and the ability to read ladder diagrams also required. Sales and Marketing experience is a plus. Must have good communication skills both in written and oral English. Must be willing to travel and have a valid driver's license.

Please send your resumé before July 31, 2003 to:

Total Corporate Network Inc.
1903-B West Tower
Philippine Stock Exchange Center
Exchange Road, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
Attention: Ms. Michelle Urgena

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
METRO MANILA
Welfareville Compound, Bgy. Addition Hills
Mandaluyong City

Sentrong Sigla

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
CHD-MM BAC-ITB NO. 2003-02

The Department of Health Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM) invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply/provision of the following, chargeable against GOP funds.

1. **Drugs & Medicines**
2. **Medical, Environmental, Surgical & Laboratory Supplies**
3. **Security Services**

Only duly accredited suppliers/manufacturers/distributors as certified by the Suppliers Accreditation Committees for Drugs and Medicines and for Medical, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies and Materials of the Department of Health are qualified to participate in this bidding.

Bidding documents can be secured from Ms. Arabella T. Pineda or Ms. Elenita S. Esmero at Bldg. 1 Local Health Assistance Division (LHAD) Office, CHD-MM, Welfareville Compound, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS, Philippine Currency (P500.00).

Schedule of Activities for No. 1 and No. 2

a)	Issuance of Bid Documents	July 28-August 8, 2003 (9:00 AM - 2:00 PM) Building 1 LHAD Office
b)	Submission of Eligibility Requirements	August 12-14, 2003 (9:00 AM – 12:00 NN) Conference Room 2, Training Bldg.
c)	Pre-bid Conference	August 19, 2003 (9:00 AM – 12:00 NN) – Medical, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies August 10, 2003 (1:30 – 4:00 PM) – Drugs & Medicines Amphitheatre, Training Bldg.
d)	Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids	August 28, 2003 (8:00 – 9:00 AM) – Medical, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies Conference Room 1, Training Bldg. August 28, 2003 (9:00 – 10:00 AM) – Drugs & Medicines Amphitheatre, Training Bldg.

Schedule of Activities for No. 3

a)	Issuance of Bid Documents	July 26 – August 8, 2003 (9:00 AM – 2:00 PM) Building 1 LHAD Office (Bring original copies of the Firms License (Security Services) for authentication.)
b)	Submission of Eligibility Requirements	August 13, 2003 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM) Conference Room 2, Training Bldg.
c)	Pre-bid Conference	August 20, 2003 (9:00 AM – 12:00 NN) Amphitheatre, Training Bldg.
d)	Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids	September 3, 2003 (9:00 AM – 10:00 AM) Amphitheatre, Training Bldg.

For further information contact the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) secretariat c/o Ms. Arabella T. Pineda at tel. no. 535-4529 (Drugs & Medicines and Security Services), or Ms. Elenita S. Esmero at tel. nos. 535-4521 or 718-3097 (Medical, Environmental, Surgical & Laboratory Supplies).

The BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the CHD-MM's action.

(Sgd.) GERARDO V. BAYUGO, MD, MPH, CESO III
Director IV CHD-MM

(PDI – July 26 & August 2, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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EARN EXTRA 0917-8928471

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-PSD 2003-0006

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-PSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

Date of Bidding : **August 8, 2003 - 10:00 a.m.**
E-bidding : **August 15, 2003 - 2:00 p.m.**

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
6AI	VARIOUS OFFICE SUPPLIES		
	1) Binder, Spiral, Etc.	OSSD03-0013	P 1,571,854.00
	2) Toner, Ink Cartridge, Etc.	OSSD03-0014	1,440,565.00

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid documents may be obtained from the Procurement Services Division, Materials Management Department of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php100.00 per schedule starting on **July 29, 2003. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents mornings only, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. No bid documents will be issued three (3) days before the date of bidding.**

Bidder is oblige to participate in E-bidding. Failure to do so will be a sufficient ground for disqualification.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, PSD, MMD, NPC, Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bids proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registration issued by former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One Percent (1%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids; and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
PSD-NPC

(PDI - July 26 & 31, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL & MEDICAL CENTER
Baguio City

INVITATION TO BID

The Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center invites all DOH-Manila accredited suppliers for Drugs and Medicines, Hospital Medical, Dental, Surgical, Laboratory, X-ray reagents and supplies to bid for the same at the Cobalt Building, BGHMC Auditorium, Baguio City.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 5, 2003**, Tuesday, 10:00 AM at the same venue for any clarifications. Opening of the Bids is scheduled on **August 15, 2003**, Friday, at exactly 2:00 PM at the same venue. Late Bidders shall be disqualified.

Instruction to Bidders (BAC FORM A) and Official Bid Tender Form (BAC FORM B) can be availed of at the office of the Chief, Medical Professional Staff c/o Mrs. MA. TERESA C. FAJARDO, after payment in cash of P400.00 at the Cashier's Office at the main hospital building, from **July 21, 2003** to **August 5, 2003** from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

The BAC shall award the contracts to suppliers with the lowest qualifying bids. The BGHMC reserves the right to waive any minor deviations in the bid tender documents which do not affect the substance and validity of the bids and reserves the right to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

Request or appeals for consideration will be entertained within seven (7) working days from posting of the winning bidders and may be submitted to the BAC Secretariat, Mrs. MA. TERESA C. FAJARDO, BGHMC, for BAC review, and will be decided on within seven (7) working days from receipt. The decision of the BAC is final.

Inquiries may be made with the BAC Secretariat, Mrs. Ma. Teresa C. Fajardo at 442-6230.

(Sgd.) **MANUEL V. FACTORA, M.D., MHA**
Medical Center Chief
BGHMC

(PDI--July 25 & 26, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED NETWORTH BANK OF LA UNION

1. Starting July 29, 2003, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Networth Bank of La Union (**NBLU**) Head Office and Branch.

2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank on the following dates, to file claims for insured deposits:

NBLU Office/Branch	Address	Servicing Dates
Head Office	Brgy. Lomboy, Sto. Tomas La Union	July 29 to August 05, 2003
Pozorrubio	Pozorrubio Public Market, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan	July 29 to August 12, 2003

PDIC representatives are stationed at the premises of the closed bank on the above cited dates to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Monday to Friday.

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., or by mail addressed to-

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue
1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:

   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposits.
   b. Latest identification documents (ID) bearing the depositor's signature.

   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

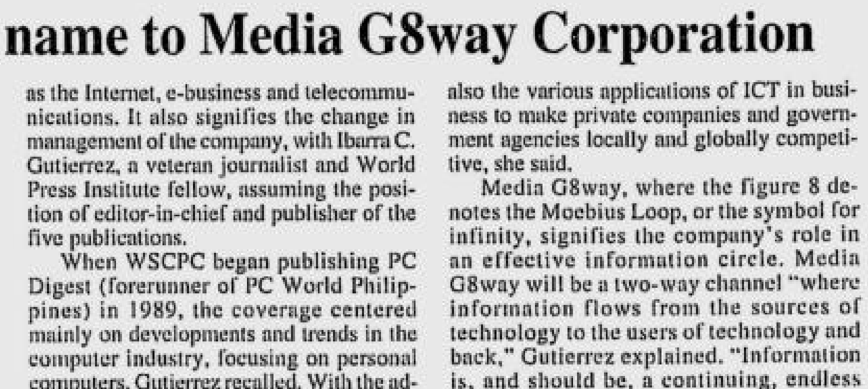
4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Networth Bank of La Union is on **December 18, 2004**. After **December 18, 2004**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI–July 26 & 28, 2003)

BAYANTEL SUBSCRIBERS GET DISCOUNTS FOR APPLIANCE REPAIRS.

Bayan Telecommunications Inc. (BayanTel) has tapped Love Electronics Service Center as its new partner for its Ang Sarap Maging BayanTel Subscriber loyalty program to provide 30% discount for repair and 5% discount on parts replacement on all electronic appliances and office equipment to subscribers.



Shown signing the partnership were from left: Leonard Lacanienta, Love electronics marketing manager; Maurice Camacho, operations manager; Illya Anacan, general manager; Rodrigo Montinola, BayanTel vice president for residential markets; and Cindy Nahil, marketing specialist for alliances.

WSCPC changes name to Media G8way Corporation

WS Computer Publishing Corp. (WSCPC), the exclusive Philippine licensee of the US-based International Data Group (IDG) and publisher of Computerworld Philippines, PC World, Enterprise, Fast Forward, and IT Resource, has changed its corporate name to Media G8way Corp. (pronounced gateway). The company has also moved to a new office at the third floor of Eurovilla II Bldg., 118 Rufino (formerly Herrera) St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Delia M. Castañeda-Gutierrez, president and chief executive officer of Media G8way, said the change reflects the company's wider coverage of the information and communications technology (ICT) industry to include ICT-related sectors such as the Internet, e-business and telecommunications. It also signifies the change in management of the company, with Ibarra C. Gutierrez, a veteran journalist and World Press Institute fellow, assuming the position of editor-in-chief and publisher of the five publications.

When WSCPC began publishing PC Digest (forerunner of PC World Philippines) in 1989, the coverage centered mainly on developments and trends in the computer industry, focusing on personal computers, Gutierrez recalled. With the addition of the four publications, including their online versions, the scope has correspondingly broadened to cover not only advancements in hardware and software but also the various applications of ICT in business to make private companies and government agencies locally and globally competitive, she said.

Media G8way, where the figure 8 denotes the Moebius Loop, or the symbol for infinity, signifies the company's role in an effective information circle. Media G8way will be a two-way channel "where information flows from the sources of technology to the users of technology and back," Gutierrez explained. "Information is, and should be, a continuing, endless process."

The name's typography, on the other hand, reflects the current trend of using letters and numbers to shorten words.

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ARSENIO SANTIAGO

BUSINESS

RP, Vietnam explore growth of airline industries

By Michelle V. Remo

TRADE and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II announced yesterday that the Philippines and Vietnam are exploring new areas of economic cooperation, including the mutual development of their airline industries.

Roxas said both parties focused talks on how to increase the frequency and seating capacities of flag carriers Vietnam Air and Philippine Air Lines.

The trade secretary expressed optimism that the discussions would eventually lead to the forging of an air agreement between the two countries and boost business activities.

"We would like to explore and discover new markets for Philippine products and services and to encourage business linkages between Filipino businessmen and those of other Asian countries," Roxas said in a statement.

Aside from the airline industry, Roxas said the two countries also explored the possibility of going into language teaching assistance projects.

The discussions between the two countries were initiated during the recent 5th Asia-Europe Economic Ministers Meeting in China.

Delegation head DTI undersecretary Thomas Aquino said strengthening economic ties with Vietnam is ideal because of its proximity and 80-million population.

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Tamaraw FX (Gasoline only)	710 - 730
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Hi-Lux	1135 - 1215

BRAKE PADS CHANGE	
Corolla / Corona (1989-1992)	1,110
Corolla 1992 up (Except Altis)	1,080
Camry / Corona EX Saloon, Exsior	1,680
Revo	1,580
Tamaraw FX	1,480
Hi-Ace	1,660
Hi-Lux	1,680

CLUTCH DISC REPLACEMENT	
Corolla (Except Altis)	3,235
Corona	3,405
Camry (1996-2002)	3,560
Revo	3,850
Tamaraw FX (Gas & Dsl)	3,660 - 4,880
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Dancing in the light, and finding answers

By Marge C. Enriquez

I HAVE just finished my annual multimedia, performance art concert, this year titled "Dancing in the Light," at Onstage Theater–between deadlines for Élan.

What started out as a medium for self-expression has since evolved into a theater that is going back to its roots–creating a sense of community and an atmosphere of ritual. The text of this year's program was based on the book, "Companion of God" by London-based international lecturer Dadi Janki. The essence is that through understanding, we should constantly pay attention to our growth process so that life-transforming experiences would become attainable.

As both producer and performer, embarking on the show, for me, is akin to a life journey. The captain of any vessel knows that weather conditions invariably change the same route that one has plied countless times. Skies could be clear one moment, and cloudy or stormy the next. This makes life challenging, like jacking up the degrees of difficulty in a game.

For this production, the obstacles I experienced had mostly to do with the way I reacted to situations that weren't according to my expectations. I often got upset, expecting people to behave according to my self-righteousness instead of trying to understand where they were coming from.

Up until curtain time, a glitch in the sound system caused a slight delay in opening the house. When the mounting pressures became untolerable–surprisingly–I could not burst into tears even if I wanted to.

Crying is usually a sign of hurt and emotions gone awry. Revisited too often, the hurt could, curiously, become a comfort zone. In the past, it would take me months to get over my misery. In theater, where everything moves fast from rehearsals to show time, reflexes have to be quick. I had to learn to act like a ram–hit the mark and drive to the heart of the matter. To depart from the terrain of distress, I've also had to take a decisive step in a different direction–to an attitude of making the most out of the present situation by balancing myself.

For many months, I had programmed in my mind the outcome of "Dancing in the Light": it would run smoothly, and it did. As a performer, I felt that I would have done my job if the audience remembered the message of the show more than my performance. Otherwise, the event would be a mere spectacle and, horrors, my self-indulgence.

The determined thought paid off. The feedback I got was largely insightful.

Actor-singer **Jeffrey Quizon,** whose alternative rock group Makata did the front act, rang me up: "The show answered all the questions I had in my mind."

Vince Reyes, managing director of Executive Decisions, wrote in a card: "Thank you for your show that reminded all of us that we, too, need not wallow in the dark. Indeed, what a pity it is to have an unlived life, but what a glory it is to dance in the light."

"The text was empowering!" exclaimed **Marc de la Cruz,** public relations manager of Makati Shangri-La.

Stylist **Millet Arzaga** sent a text: "Thanks for giving me and my friends the chance to reflect on life, our relationship with God and people while we are still on earth. Will have an insightful weekend, a fresh start." This gives me hope that the younger generation in the fashion industry still maintains its ideals.

Of course, there were some nitpicking, too, that had

DANCING/ C3

what's inside
C2
darling duo
C4
daring dior
C6
dynamite dish
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TWO WOMEN

By Angela Blardony Ureta
Contributor

PHOTO BY PATRICK UY; MAKE-UP BY MIKEE RAYMUNDO FOR MAC

Ching and Chin-Chin Gutierrez–mother and daughter, and extraordinary individuals–are glad they took separate journeys even if it hurt while they did, because now they have a lot to share with one another

CHIN-CHIN Gutierrez can walk through a wooded area and introduce each tree with the familiarity of a bosom friend. Instead of a manicured lawn, the gates of her family home open to a pocket forest of ancient trees with braided vines, under whose canopies younger saplings are cared for. Amidst the hum of crickets, Chin-Chin spins anecdotes about her latest foundlings, especially the ones she managed to save from the woodcutter's axe.

"My work for the environment defines my meaning in life right now," says the award-winning actress. Her efforts as an eco-activist earned her the cover of this year's Time Asia special issue on Asian heroes. Having been at the forefront of the campaign for solid waste management and the preservation of Mount Banahaw in the last five years, she has become the poster girl for environmental awareness in the Philippines.

It's not the ideal career path a show biz manager would want for his ward, which is why Chin-Chin has been on her own for some time now. Last seen as a camp, villainous character in a soap opera, she is kept busy outside of the mainstream by an assortment of independent projects. Next weekend, she will sing, swing and soar as Valentina in Ballet Philippines' production of "Darna." In between rigorous rehearsals and promotional tours, she has managed to appear in an indie film for a New York-based director; record a few more songs for her National Commission on Culture and the Arts-funded project "Uyayi," a compilation of Filipino lullabies; deliver speeches on sustainable development for business groups, and take on a couple of fashion magazine pictorials.

"I always try to be alternative but mainstream keeps calling me back," she laughs. Reluctantly pushed to the bottom of her to-do list this year are plans for a series of lounge acts, her first painting exhibit, and the groundwork for a TV program on sustainable living.

Passing through

As we trudge along, the garden pathway leads to a quiet abode that has been home to three generations of enchanted women who lived in a world of color, music, fable and lore.

Today, only two of the charmed ones exist in this plane. Chin-Chin shares the house with her mother–artist, angelologist and holistic healer Cecilia "Ching" Gutierrez. The matriarch keeps watch over her household through the eyes of a watercolor portrait that her granddaughter made before she passed away two years ago.

"Lola died in my arms," recounts Chin-Chin. "She took care of me as a child and I've always prayed that when she was ready to leave this life, I'd be there to assist her. And that's exactly what happened. My mom was out of town then, so it was just the two of us at home."

Constancia de la Paz Arnaldo spent most of her life traveling the world with her husband, Solomon, who worked with the Unesco. A vivacious woman with a passion for music and culture, she was an accomplished pianist who spoke several languages as proficiently as she could cook and do needlework. Widowed just before her granddaughter was born, she regaled the young Chin-Chin with magical hours of fairy tales and Chopin, baking homemade brownies and dressing up dolls.

"I was born surrounded by grown-ups and grown-up things like books, vinyl records, my father's laboratory specimens and my mother's art materials," recalls Chin-Chin. "I could read and write at four, played the piano at six, started modeling and earning my own money at 16. Everyone treated me like an adult, except for Granny because she had a playful nature herself."

The summer that she passed on, Lola was 86 and had been in pretty bad shape. "Somehow that morning, I knew it was time, so I called for a priest. Meanwhile, I sat her up and touched the vital points of her body to keep her conscious. But when I got to her heart, her breathing stopped! My head was thumping: "Oh no, not yet! The priest is not yet here! I can't be responsible for this!' Then she opened her eyes again…"

"Her eyes were peaceful and looked straight into mine. She was ready but somehow, she was worried about me. I held her close and assured her that I loved her and it was okay to go. The affirmation of how she lived was the way she died, with full awareness and will."

Needless to say, the lady was remarkable. After all, she raised and inspired two individuals whose life paths are extraordinary–a daughter who converses with the angels, and a granddaughter who speaks the language of Nature.

"When I hear people say my daughter is weird because she communicates with trees and butterflies, I get more amused than worried," says Ching of her firstborn. "Once I told her, 'Chin, stop telling people you talk to butterflies. Tell them they're the ones talking to you! You're not weird, you're wired!'"

Out of the herd

That her daughter is odd by the usual standards, Ching is quick to agree. It must be the genes. Chin-Chin's father, Hermes, is a Harvard-educated botanist who authored two volumes of Materia Medica, did taxonomy work for the National Museum, and conducted extensive research on endemic medicinal plants. On the other hand, Ching spent 10 years as a Franciscan nun before settling into a lay person's life of painting, writing and more recently, holistic healing.

After graduating with honors, with a degree in Fine Arts from the Newton College of the Sacred Heart, Ching joined the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, only 18 and "so inspired by the life of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus." As a novice, she was sent to Boston to study Angelology, Theology and Sacred Scripture. It was also then, in the turbulent Sixties, that she got exposed to different belief systems.

"Once in Philosophy class, a question was raised: Are you living your life in a herd? That's when I realized the community of nuns was a herd. In my mind, I started to rebel, and my body soon followed."

Although she made no effort to leave the convent, fate intervened and the defiant novice got injured in a bad fall. Advised to seek medical attention outside the convent, Ching took it as a sign that she was meant for other things.

Within a few months, the former nun met and married the scientist. A daughter was born within a year, followed by a son 10 months later.

Married life for Ching was a brief but meaningful romance, a fascinating rediscovery of who she was. Beyond her chores as wife and mother, she plunged deep into her new career as a painter and embarked on a personal quest for the truth within herself.

"There were so many paths–from toning to mind development, yoga, charismatic movement," she says. "I tried them all!"

At one point, Ching even became a missionary for an evangelical group, and was tasked to spread the Gospel in Hong Kong and China, until she realized that organized religion did not hold the key to her soul-searching. In 1990, semi-paralyzed by a lingering bout with diabetes, she had her first encounter with angels.

"In my life, enlightenment is almost always preceded by illness," Ching quips. "My Guardian Angel revealed herself to me while I was in my sickbed. From then on, I devoted my art and writing to the study of angelic manifestation." From a succession of inspired exhibits on Angel Art and a series of articles in various publications, Ching developed workshops and meditation groups that centered on angel awareness. By this time, the veil had lifted on her spiritual search.

Speed of love

Surrounded by an eclectic mix of art, science and spirituality, Chin-Chin developed tolerance as soon as she learned her three Rs. "As a child, you're driven to where love and protection is. If that space was defined by my father's or my mother's or my grandmother's lifestyle alone, then it would've been okay. But there were so many! So I decided to love all and be all. I had to remain open for my own sanity and survival."

With her dad in the US and her mom doing missionary work, Chin-Chin spent most of her teenage years in the care of her Lola and other close relatives. Already a budding beauty who excelled in sports and the performing arts, most of her classmates would remember the quiet Carminia as being curiously withdrawn. In fact, she was painfully shy.

"In school, you could find me only in three places–the classroom, the basketball court or the soccer field. When I started modeling, the more I tried to be low-key," says the former varsity athlete who spent a big chunk of her first ad paycheck on two pairs of soccer shoes. "I guess it had something to do with moving all the time. I was constantly introducing myself to new people. That's how I learned to be my own person."

Ironically, among the people she had to introduce herself to was her own mother, who settled back in Manila in 1994. "By then, I was already an actress, I had my own car, I was taking care of Lola. There we were living under one roof, three strong-willed women with different world views."

Living harmoniously was not an easy task. Although they loved each other dearly and believed they were spiritually connected by a strong, karmic umbilical cord, each had a fiercely independent spirit. Chin-Chin recalls that phase to be both funny and exasperating. "When two of us had *tampuhan*, the third would get caught in the middle. What saved the day was whenever a suitor arrived, then everyone would be charming and sweet!"

Things took a more serious turn when her grandmother died. "Mom and I were left to ourselves and all the years of not talking about how we felt towards each other just exploded! We pushed each other's buttons. All the past hurts started to surface and every little argument became a big deal."

A long spell of silence that lasted several months followed, broken only by divine intervention. Distraught by the "cold war," Chin-Chin went on a five-day retreat with the Pink Sisters in Tagaytay. In return, she was asked to sing for the ordination of 12 priests just before Christmas. "I used it as an opportunity to test the waters with Mom," she reveals. "I invited her to the ordination mass. At first she declined because she was facilitating a workshop on the same day. *'Yun pala*, the venue was also in Tagaytay, just around the corner from the church!"

Both describe their auspicious reunion as "light." They kissed each other for the first time in months, and renewed their efforts to make up. "Our friend, a French priest, brought us to a side chapel and told us that although we had that physical relationship as mother and daughter, we were both children in the eyes of the Father," Chin-Chin relates. "We had to make peace with ourselves and with each other because whatever we did, we were answerable to God."

Patching up involved a tedious, even painful process of communication. Realizing there was no other way of dealing with it, they started expressing what they didn't like about each other–only to discover that the disclosure would lead to what they loved about each other most.

As their relationship improved, Ching paid closer attention to her own physical well-being. "I had stage-five diabetes and was already insulin-dependent. But I really loved to eat, so it was very difficult to curb my appetite for sweets. Only after I lost a toe to gangrene did I seriously discipline myself, and Chin-Chin supported me in my effort."

Following her daughter's lifestyle, Ching went on a rigid vegetarian diet. In eight months, she lost 40 lbs and was off the insulin. This personal triumph encouraged her to pursue the cause of holistic health, putting up support groups for individuals suffering from dreaded diseases like cancer, and advocating what she calls "health environmentalism".

"It's good that Chin-Chin and I went on our own journeys separately because we have a lot to share with each other now," Ching says with a knowing smile. "Although she's the younger one, in many ways, she is my teacher. We went through a lot of hard times but we learned from each other. We learned to resolve our differences and somehow, the situation resolved itself."

"Life is still not a bed of roses," adds Chin-Chin, " but at least we've come across a basic foundation to live by and sustain us. The bottom line is that we want it to work–no matter what. If there's anything that can heal wounds faster than the speed of light, it's the speed of love."

A walk through commercial chaos

By Ernest Santiago, *Contributor*

Exploring the new Greenbelt area and Glorietta, the designer and businessman in me could not help but notice the sad visual state of the retail scene

Buy1 Take1
SALE

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

WEARY of the fast and ruthless city lifestyle, I chose to simplify my life in quiet Pagsanjan, Laguna.

It was my decision to slow down after years of working in the rag trade by day and enlivening the Malate bar scene by night.

One Monday I left my comfort zone for a lunch appointment in Makati. Arriving early, I decided to kill time by exploring the new Greenbelt area. The designer and businessman in me could not help but notice the sad visual state of the retail scene.

At Greenbelt Mall I, I passed by stalls selling paraphernalia for mobile phones. I went to the second floor to see Onstage Theater, where I reprised my drag act in "Ilusione." Descending to the ground floor, I was appalled that it looked like a town plaza.

In today's dog-eat-dog retail scene, there is a need for steady sales for the survival of business. Marketing, especially visual merchandising, is one of the most crucial elements for successful sales.

Hodgepodge display

With the hodgepodge display at the bookstore, I could not figure out an overall image. The presentation of the books would definitely not lure customers to buy them at once. The slipshod window display reminded me to dust the books on my own shelves at home, rather than find out what's the latest.

Another mixed merchandise store had a layout and overall presentation that were out of sync in terms of the flow of aisles, selling space, and product placement. It felt as if you were in Tutuban Mall looking for finds in a heap of clothes. The small aisles might give the impression of economy and also that the store sold more products than they actually did. But the haphazard arrangement didn't encourage customers to browse. The cosmetics counters lacked the freshness that the products presumably promoted, and the beauty consultants needed to be better groomed.

I followed the path to Greenbelt 2, where the tony restaurants were. The restaurants competed for attention like superstars trying to outdo one another. The façade of the restaurants were as impressive as the interiors. After all, these restos had been created by the best architects and interior designers in the country. Despite the slick interiors, however, all of them lacked soul. For me, any place must reflect the persona of the owner. Outside the restaurants are chairs and tables under giant parasols. The small gaps between the tables might create a feeling of intimacy but instead of breathing fresh air, you'd end up inhaling smoke or each other's breath.

Crossing to Greenbelt 3 in the midday heat, I looked at the home and fashion stores. My senses were offended by the uniformity of the merchandise and their steep price tags to boot. The big window display of a well-known design store presented a few interesting pieces. But the background color did not complement the products and therefore failed to highlight them.

Not sales alone

Taking the impressive bridgeway to the Ayala Center, I visited the home design floor at the Glorietta. The collections on sale were a mosaic of Filipino, antique, Chinese, Korean, Thai and Indonesian stuff. As I walked from one store to another, I discovered that the items were almost identical. These competitors had gone to the same source–maybe flea markets in Bangkok. The only difference was the pricing. Some of the products looked like cheap knockoffs with their shoddy finishing.

Effective merchandising is measured by sales, yes, but its impact on the store's image and customer appeal should also be considered. I suggest that retailers be more conscious of their display tactics and store layout. Survival of the fittest will depend on how well they choose their merchandise, know the color story and widen the range, promote better quality, get more suppliers and create an ambiance that will encourage customers to look, buy and feel good about it.

Overall, from what I saw, consumers don't have enough choices despite the overcrowded retail scene. They are merely engulfed in a hodgepodge that is so typically Pinoy, or in the blandness and uniformity of the more sophisticated stores. Generally, visual merchandising in these high-profile places lacked the clean, pleasant and unpretentious atmosphere that would bridge the gap between all the classes.

Darling, *ano ba iyan?* Living in laid-back Pagsanjan, I haven't really missed much.

ÉLAN

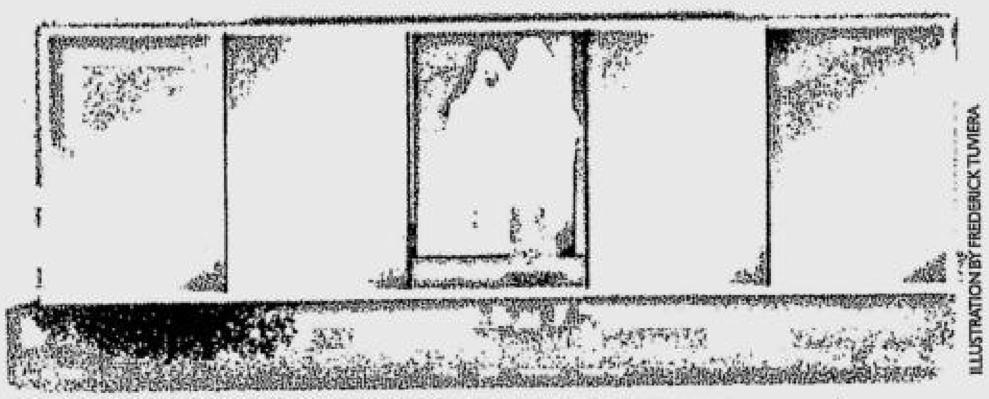


ILLUSTRATION BY FREDERICK TUVIERA

Dancing in the light, and finding answers

From page C1

nothing to do with technical or artistic standards. Nonetheless, no one could deny the pin-drop silence in the theater. For 30 minutes–yes, it was that short–the audience seemed to forget they were in a material world.

Whenever I hear naysayers, I remind myself of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's words: "If your main objective was 'Please, I just want to be liked and have no criticism,' you end up doing nothing in this world!"

Miss Popularity

Speaking of wanting to be liked, **Cherish Garcia-Hernandez** reviews this cheeky book "How to Become Famous in Two Weeks or Less."

The lifestyle circle is obsessed with instant gratification. Some party-goers who are make-up and clothes junkies become stylists, beauty editors and makeup artists. There are many "makeup artists" that get a lot of media attention, but their skill is limited to the clean look. They get away with it, since these "artists" use young women with balanced features.

In local journalism, writers with less than five years of experience become editors and columnists and even compile their articles in a book–when they are still green in basic news gathering. And indeed, some media people are remembered more for what they wear than for what they write.

When I got my contract as PDI columnist this year, I felt it was something I had earned with two decades of experience. However, I decided to pass up on a column title and my photograph beside my byline, since everybody else was doing it.

Some "writers" have become "famous" because they compete with their subjects/interviewees–and win, of course. In their hands, journalism becomes less an instrument for public service than a vehicle for self-promotion.

In "How to Become Famous in Two Weeks or Less," TimeOut New York magazine asked one of the authors to roam the streets topless for a day in its annual naked issue. She even posed for a figurative painter and hoped that someday her life-size nude portrait would be displayed in someone's living room.

With this in mind, I made private joke: since practically everyone was publishing their photographs beside their published stories, I might as well scandalize everyone, too, and claim my 15 minutes of notoriety by posing in the buff.

At the theater dressing room, **Joe Salazar,** who did my costumes; **Patrick Rosas** and his makeup team gawked at me while I was just in plasters and body stocking as the assistant stage manager taped the wires of my mikes to my back.

"Marge, you look like one of us!" exclaimed Joe. (My body is a more toned version, though.) There goes my 15 minutes.

One day, I shall write about how great it is to be a nobody.

Jamir shoots fashion again

Élan is reviving the fashion photography of **Napoleon "Nap" Jamir II,** who is devoted to advertising and cinematography. He maybe unknown to this generation in the fashion industry, but for us baby boomers, the concept photography he made for Anne Klein, Cacharelle and SM Boutique Square still linger.

Jamir was one of the first recipients of the CCP 13 Artists Awards in 1974. In 1981, he and photographer **Neal Oshima** established Shadow Visual, an advertising and graphics agency known for progressive images. Jamir and Oshima were adventurous. They were among the first in local fashion photography to experiment with tones and cross-processing to create solarized images, use ring lights to highlight the eyes, create shadows, highlight figures and integrate architectural details with the clothes.

In 1986, Jamir moved on to advertising and the movies. He did the cinematography for **Tikoy Aguiluz**'s "Rizal sa Dapitan" which won a couple of awards. In the advertising field, he was one of the first to use the MTV format for Close-Up. His Splash commercial launched the career of the young **Phoemela Baranda.** Today he flies around the Asean region to shoot commercials.

Élan plucked him out of his commercial work for this shoot on Christian Dior ready-to-wear clothes and accessories which were flown in from Paris. The sheer, biased clothes contrasted wonderfully with the modern lines of a new building in Quezon City. Jamir used movie lights for this shoot, owned by **Conrado Baltazar Jr.** whose late father was a multi-awarded cinematographer for most of Lino Brocka movies.

What a girl wants

Élan received an email from **Margaret Doria,** a junior high school student from Tarlac.

"I just wanna let you know that I really appreciate and love reading your articles. I hope and know that you'd continue writing and sharing with all readers, good and sensible articles. Also, I want to suggest that you feature **Chin Chin Gutierrez** soon 'cause I admire her so much because of her beauty and brains, and love for God's creation."

I was very surprised that this 14-year-old–the target audience of Saturday Special Super and 2BU–reads Élan, which is aimed at a mature and sophisticated population.

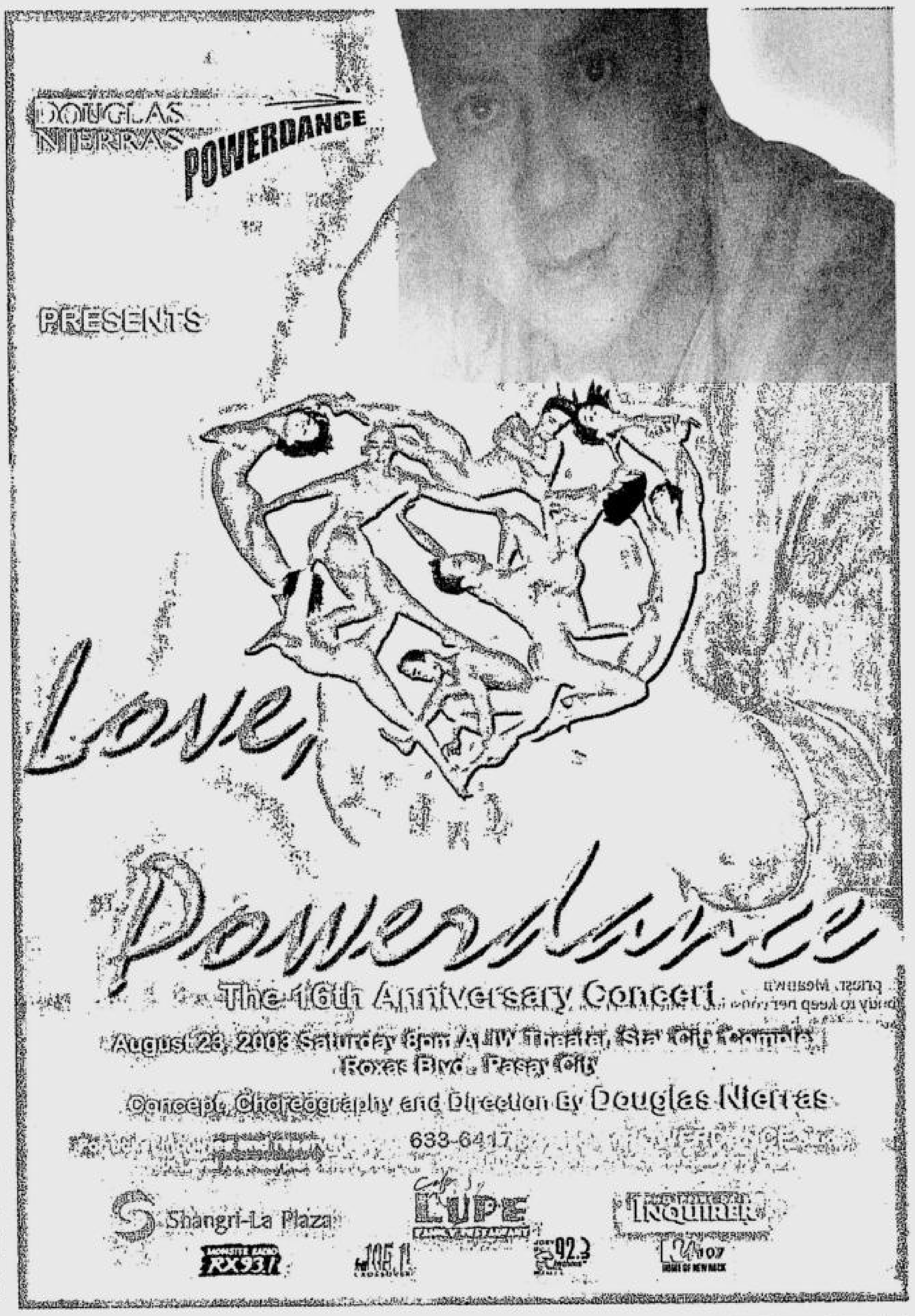
It goes to show that there is market for this type of journalism that goes beyond demographics.

Anjie Ureta, ANC executive producer, goes back to her passions–writing and alternative lifestyles–by profiling the interesting relationship of Chin-Chin with her mother **Ching Gutierrez.**

*****

Since Élan has been receiving substantial feedback from readers, for speedier response, send your email to menriquez@inquirer.com.ph

There is an urgency to center ourselves because our minds have been pulled by many responsibilities that, when regarded as the priority, make our spirits wither


DOUGLAS NIERRAS POWERDANCE
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Concept, Choreography and Direction By Douglas Nierras
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92.3
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HAIR LOSS HELP PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Hair loss is a fact of life. An average of 100 strands a day is normal but more than that is alarming.

Do you notice a lot of precious hair strands on your pillow, the bathroom sink and all over your clothes? If the number of hair locks you lose has reached alarming proportions, it's time to have a professional dermatologist check your scalp to confirm that these telltale signs indicates that you already have a hair loss problem.

Basically, 9 out of 10 hair loss problems stems from genetic predisposition. Other possible causes include stress, crash diets, poor nutrition, chronic illness, thyroid malfunction or intake of certain medications and Vitamin A overdose.

Aggressive styling techniques and the improper use of styling aids and chemicals can also contribute to hair loss. In any case, you need to do something to stop the hair loss problem with a solution.

Although the market offers a lot of so-called solutions and cheap alternatives, you will just waste your money if your product is not effective.

Regroe 5% is approved by the FDA and BFAD to control hair loss and make your natural hair grow again. There is no other topical solution that has the approval of these regulatory agencies, despite their claims. The only other product approved for hair loss is an oral drug that can only be used by men and only for hair loss brought about by heredity. The oral medication has some disturbing side effects, even for men who use them.

As far as efficacy and safety are concerned, Minoxidil 5% (Regroe), has proven to be the only effective solution backed up by clinical studies conducted in the US, Europe, the Philippines and the rest of Asia.

Regroe 5% works by dilating and increasing the size of the blood vessels around the hair follicles, thus promoting more blood flow and better oxygenation and nutrition to the follicles. Regroe directly acts on hair producing cells to continuously divide and multiply to produce longer and thicker hair. Clinical studies prove that on the first month of regular twice-a-day Minoxidil 5% usage, excessive hair loss stops. On the 2nd month, small to medium size vellus hair begin to grow. After 6 months of treatment, 86.1% of Filipinos tested with Minoxidil 5% grew their hair back and now enjoy a full head of hair.

So why waste precious money on untested products that cannot prove their claims? Regroe 5% has made a difference in the lives (and hairlines) of a lot of satisfied patrons because it is the only authentic topical solution to hair loss.

HAIR LOSS HELP

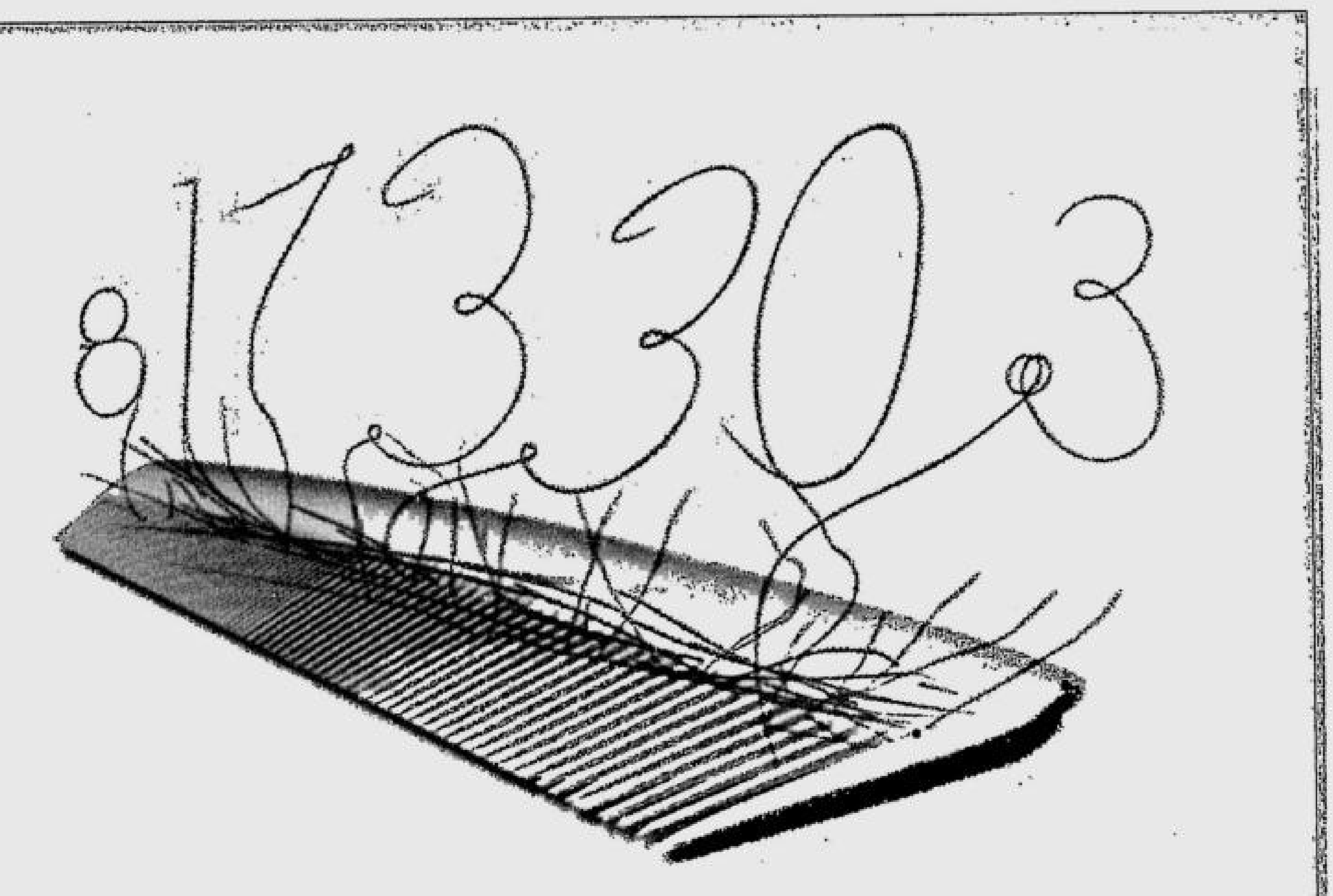
The Regroe Company, the pioneer in hair loss treatment, in cooperation with Mercury Drug, the first and largest drugstore chain in the country, is holding a hair loss awareness campaign.

For the month of July and August, The Regroe Company will be giving free consultations at selected Mercury Drug outlets.

During the hair loss consultation, you can get the following absolutely FREE! *• A completed assessment on the condition of your hair • The best treatment option for hair loss whatever the case is • Free product samples from the Regroe Company.*

So hurry, and go to the selected Mercury Drugstores for the Regroe Hair Loss Free Consultation. You can also call the Regroe Hotline at 817-3303 for more details on how to stop hair loss. Do it now before it is too late.

Advt



Call now or visit Mercury Drug near you for ***FREE*** consultation on your hairloss problem.

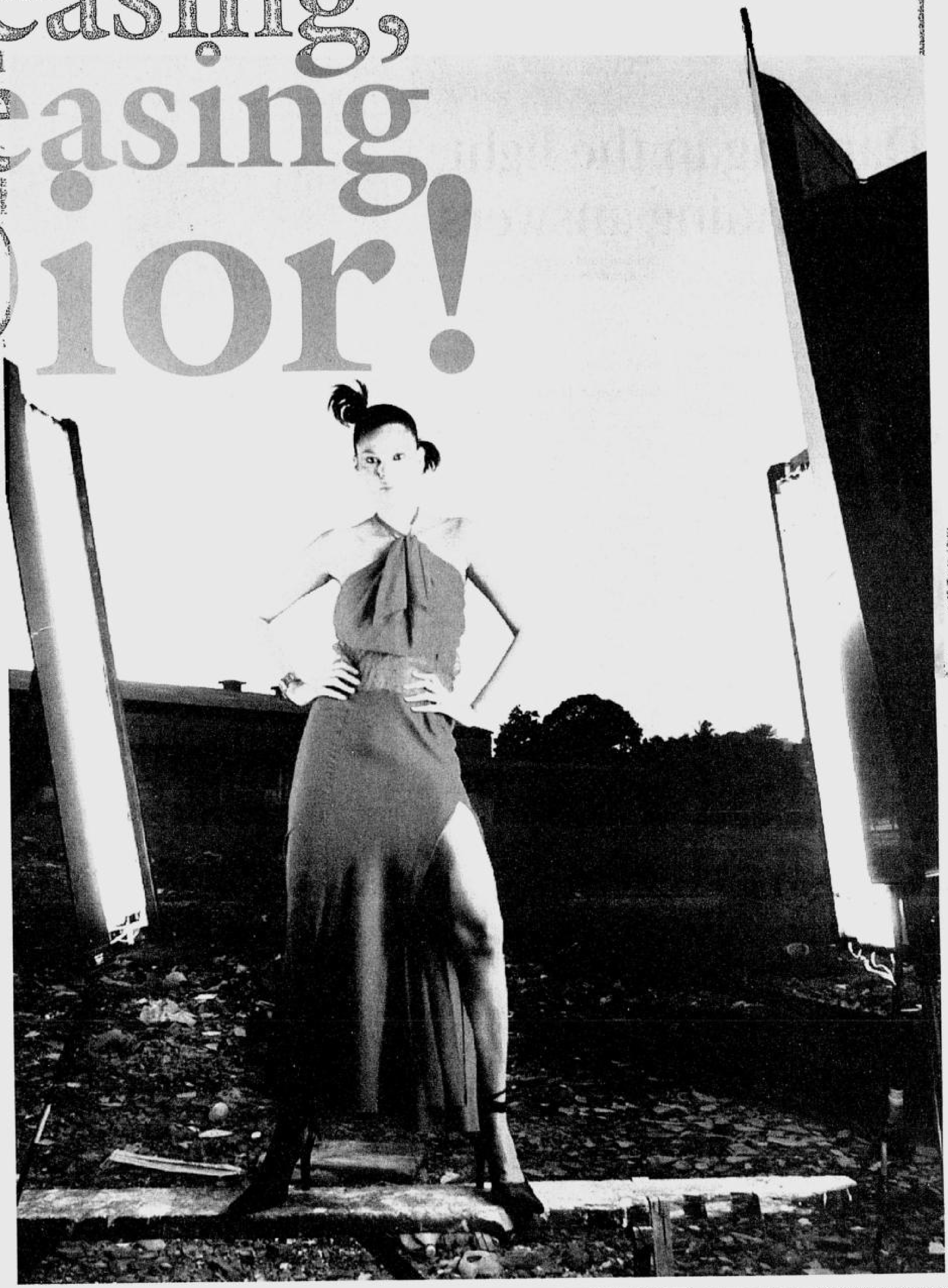
The Regroe COMPANY

mercury drug
NAKAKASIGURO GAMOT AY LAGING BAGO

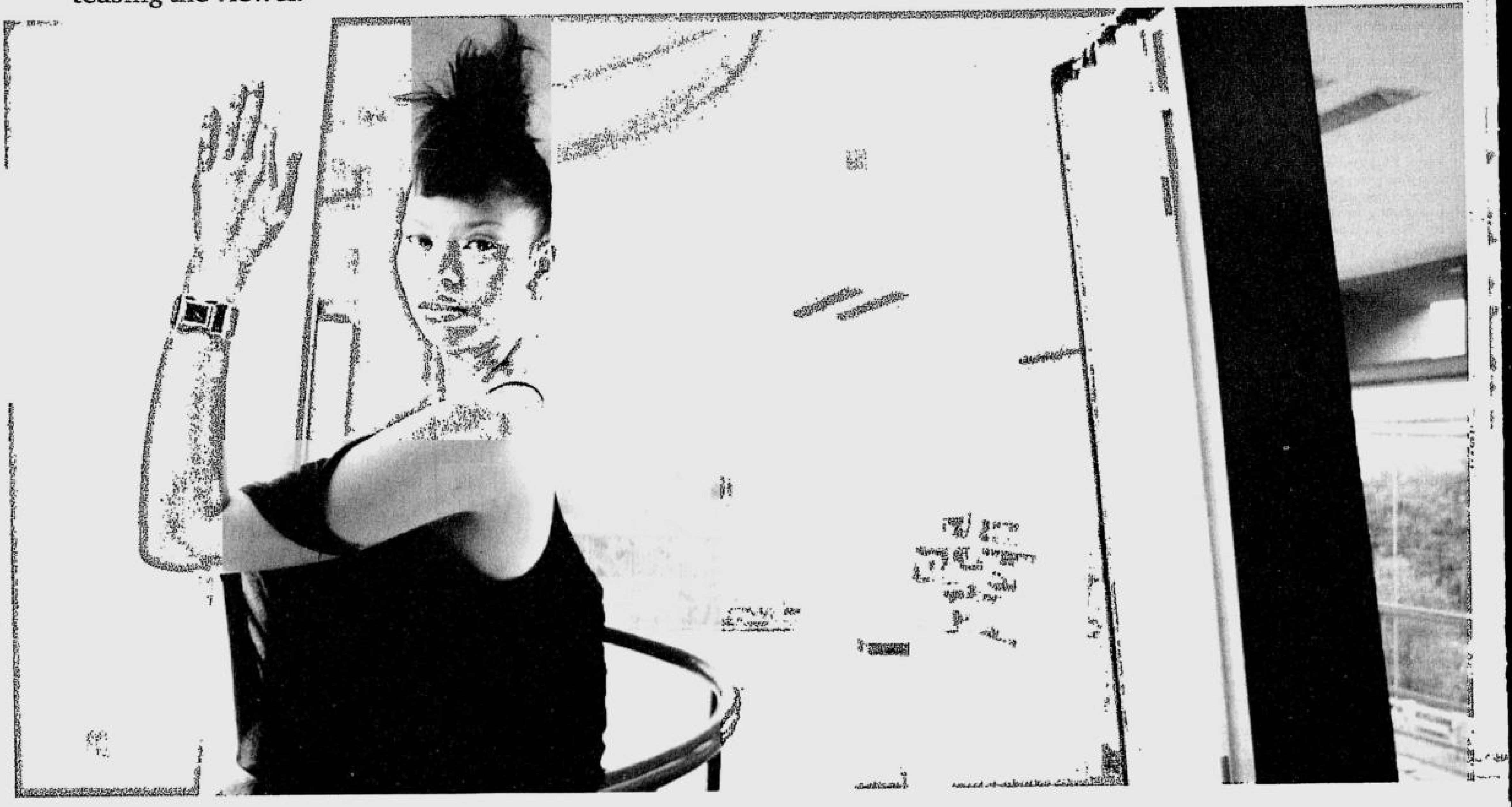
July 23-28	August 1-4	August 6-11	August 13-18
Ayala Center Makati - Glorietta	Scout Borromeo-Quezon Ave.	Robinson's Galleria-Ortigas	Festival Mall-Alabang
Festival Mall - Alabang	San Andres - Malate	Mayflower Plaza-Mandaluyong	Jaka Plaza-Parañaque
Jaka Plaza - Parañaque	Citimall-Diliman	Shangri-La Plaza-Mandaluyong	Harrison Plaza-Manila
V. Luna - East Ave.	Ever Gotesco-Commonwealth	Ayala Center Makati-Glorietta	Robinson's Place-Ermita

Photos by Nap Jamir, assisted by Jordan Arabejo ◦ Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

Pleasing, teasing Dior!



Sustaining the "goddess" trend, Christian Dior flew in diaphanous outfits from Paris for this dream shoot. The clothes exemplify designer John Galliano's quintessential style of giving past references a cutting-edge look. Deceptively simple yes, but masterfully constructed. Galliano is known to have revived old techniques, particularly the bias, and reworked them into standard ready-to-wear procedures. Employing traditional craft, these clothes are imbued with sexuality as they dance on the fringes between sensual and erotic, pleasing and teasing the viewer.



'Hard Core Glamour'

WITH John Galliano as Christian Dior's chief designer, the French house has been pushing back boundaries and breaking conventions. Its newest ouvre is the Chris 47 watch.

"Since my arrival at Dior," Galliano recounts, "the codes of the house have evolved and today they incorporate a certain 'street chic'–an inspiration from today's youth culture, music and sportswear. The design of this watch was meant to incorporate these elements, resulting in a chic urban edge with a Dior spin. My love of design originally developed from my desire to illustrate, and I enjoy sketching watches, with different faces, fixtures, bracelets, etc."

Chris 47 bears the trademarks of its predecessor–curved line with Dior engraved recesses on the side, vertical asymmetry of the case, geometric dials, discreet time buttons in the back.

Galliano made the profile slender, just half the thickness of the first mode. Chris 47 has a screwed back for a clean finish, and a scratch-proof sapphire crystal. The dials are either in refined lacquer or sun-brushed renditions. The watch is encased in polished 316 L steel propels. Another model features interchangeable techno-color leather straps and unfolding buckles that match the Dior bag or shoes.

"The Chris 47 has taken direction from the current trend at Dior that I call 'Hard Core Glamour,' the designer explains.

Whether its for maquillage, accessories or watches, the Dior creative process begins with the haute couture collection.

Says Galliano: "Preparation for this collection begins with a research trip abroad. Today a designer cannot afford to live in an ivory cage. It is important to go out there and see the world. The couture serves as a laboratory for ideas, pure unbridled invention and experimentation. This form of creative expression is highly nourishing, and through this we move forward. Ideas that we work out then trickle down into inspiration for ready-to-wear lines, accessories and other divisions. I see myself as a spark that lights the fire of creativity here at Dior."

Citing the difference between designing accessories and a timepiece, he further explains, "One must firstly respect the wonderful tradition of watch making, which is technically so intricate and demands such precision. Then there is the sheer restriction on form and size that automatically presents constraints. Our objective at Dior is to offer watches of the highest quality in trend-setting fashionable styles. One must take into consideration that a watch is essentially to be worn daily and should identically match with everything. A watch is a functional accessory that can incorporate fantasy and technology."

Response to the Chris 47 has been overwhelming. "Part of the recipe of success is timing. I believe that we launched the watch at just the right time. It followed the evolution of our ready-to-wear lines and the evolution of our clientele to a younger base that we have now added to our traditional–and faithful–client base."

IR AND MAKEUP BY PATRICK ROSAS AND MARLON SUAREZ ● MODEL: RAZELL ANDERSON

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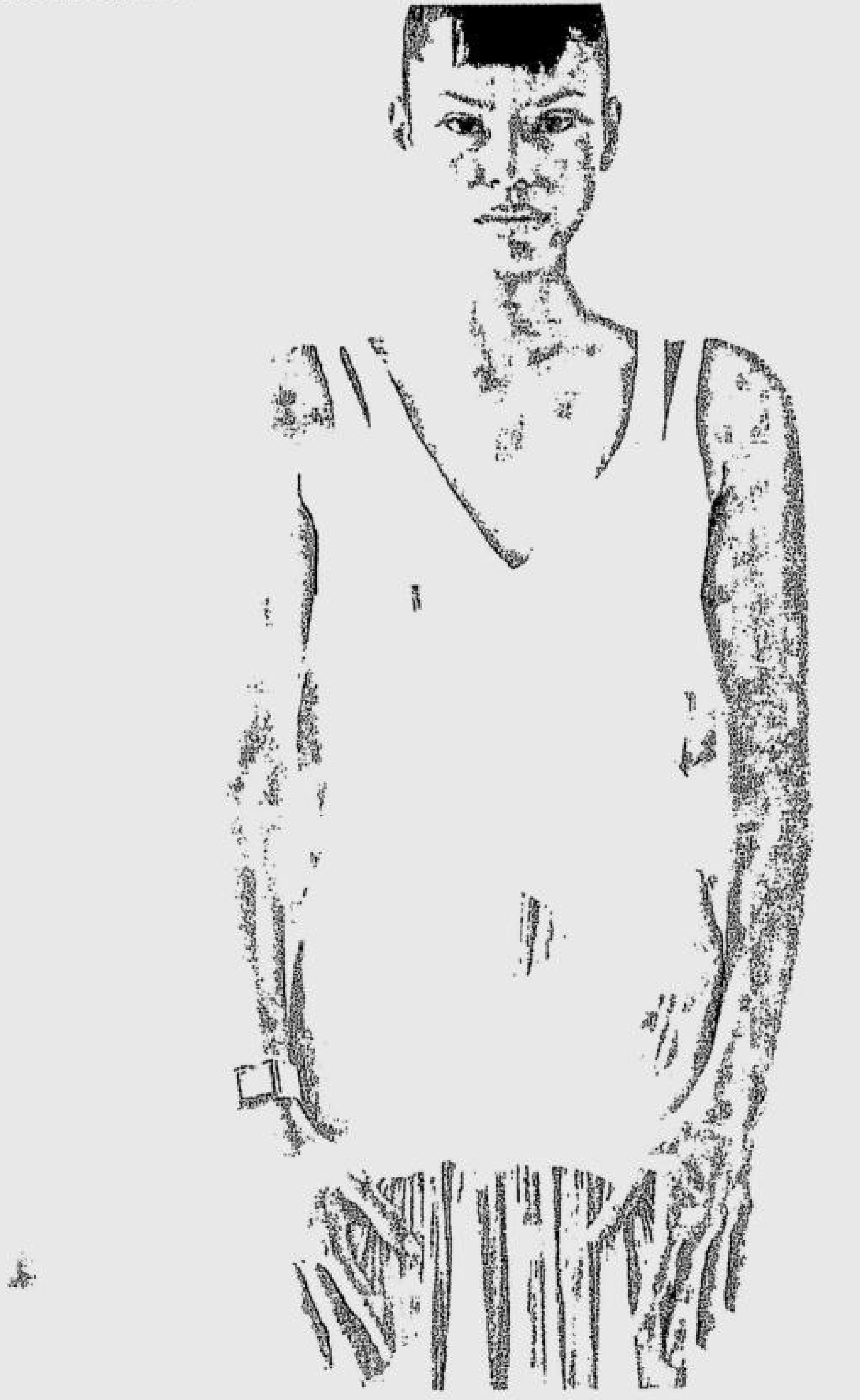

Dior
VICTIM
Dior
Dior

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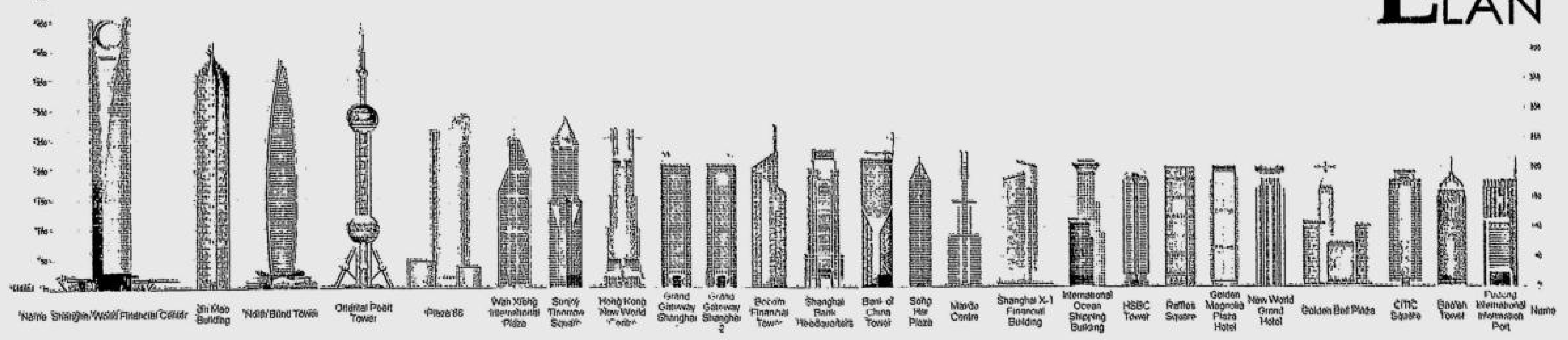
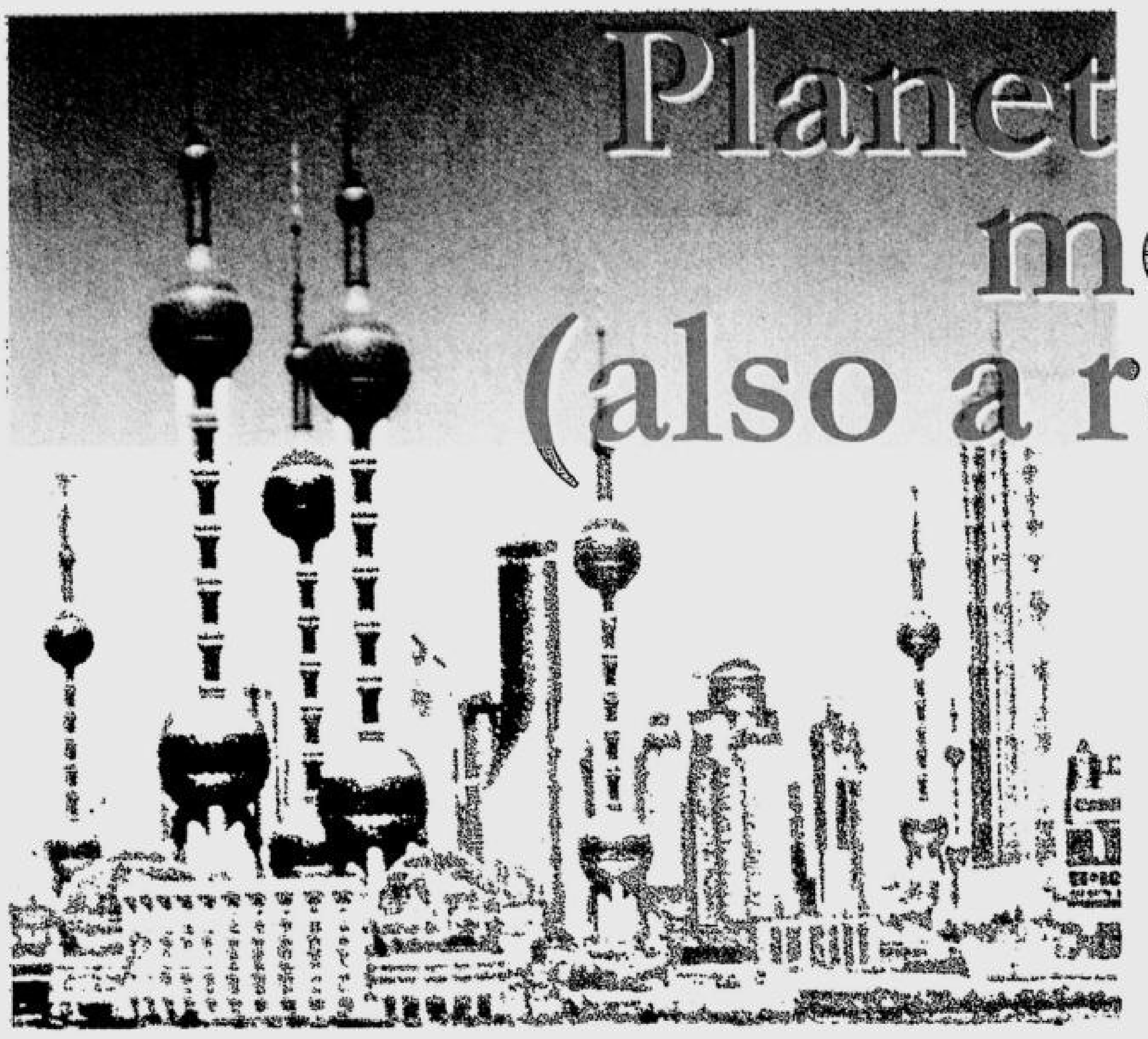
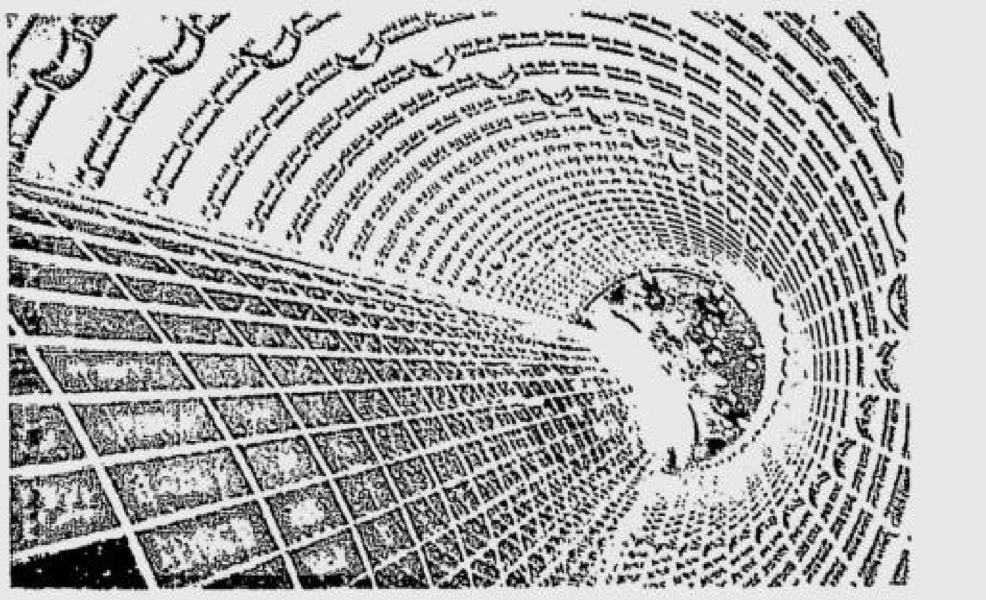




Planet Shanghai, megalopolis (also a restaurant)

By Bea P. Valdes, *Contributor*



I had memories of Shanghai before I ever got there. Tea-stained images of the Bund twinkling during the '20s, a clutter of linong (lane housing) with their yawning roof terraces suffocating cramped courtyards, where heartbeats were trapped between rows and rows of elm trees.

I imagined sweeping views of grand estates from behind formidable façades and French windows, silent estates that concealed elegant, high-ceilinged rooms which, in turn, enclosed elegant, high-ceilinged lives.

Also within this borrowed nostalgia was a phonograph perpetually rolling out the same chirpy warble. Smartly dressed women whispered hush-hush, hair rolled up in waves; they always wore pearls. In this sepia-colored Shanghai, it never rained.

IN reality, it is drizzling when the plane lands in Pudong, and the sky is overcast.

"So grey," I tell the guide as we point skyward. "Tomorrow sunny?" I ask.

She laughs, shakes her head, "No."

Constant smog has scratched the sun out of the sky, the result of decade's worth of using low-grade fuel for cooking, heating and for running factories. This permanent haze sits without a horizon to grab on to, as the city is so unbelievably, so purposefully massive. Shanghai is a true megalopolis whose surreal vastness can prove to be either inspirational or sterile. It is a city one encounters in dreams, where there are no markers, names or reference points, just diffused landscapes that flow into the dust and distance. The scale of what is the real Shanghai destroys my faulty nostalgia.

Empire of SARS

In "Empire of The Sun," J.G.Ballard recalls his experiences as a 12-year-old detainee in the Lunghua prison camp in Shanghai. He navigates ravaged territory into scorched worlds, whose wastelands are metaphors for the new modernity. Ballard depicts war with no heroes or heroics, where the only battle is to survive.

Today, Shanghai is a very safe city with almost zero crime rate. One gets a strong sense of security from its manicured sidewalks and rigid, efficient infrastructure. There is nothing arbitrary here, a place of progress for progress, and a city in contrast to chaos theory.

I ask how Shanghai dealt with the SARS epidemic, a different war where, once again, the issue was survival.

Our tour guide reassures us that media's portrayal of SARS was exaggerated. "There are only eight cases of SARS here, none of them Shanghainese. We just had to change the way we do things. Better to wave at each other than to shake hands. People decide to travel to work at times when the subway is not too crowded, or perhaps they take taxis now, with the windows open. But what is most different is how we eat. We like our food family style. But now we serve everyone in individual plates."

The whole dining experience has been altered, in other words.

In total, the disease struck twenty-two of the larger, trendier establishments downtown, with another 10 or so suspiciously "under renovation." The death toll for smaller eateries is still uncertain.

Shintori and other Spaces

In truth, all traces of paranoia seem to have vanished as one strolls down the packed streets of Xintiandi, another example of the globalization of the dining and entertainment complex, complete with faux cobblestone, antiqued street lamps, and the omnipresent Starbucks. Each establishment, regardless of cuisine or restaurant type, is spilling out patrons into the night.

In contrast to the collective at Xintiandi, there are stand-alone restaurants that thrive by word of mouth. Shintori, which occupies a 1,000-meter space that once housed a printing press, is a contemporary canteen with an open kitchen. Polished cement and glass are the only finishes, and yet it does not fall into blandness, maybe because the design lays bare the whole cavernous expanse, exposing the luxury of scale, not of embellishment. Yet dining still feels private, as fluid walls of wooden blinds gracefully quarters its space. The stage is set to relish sensations. The food is traditional Japanese, but artfully presented on modern tableware.

Next door to Shintori is People 6, which also nods towards the architecture of light and space. Traditional Chinese cuisine is restyled into a modern presentation, with serving dishes specially commissioned to accommodate the chef's specifications. Spring Rolls are made long, thin, chopstick-like and then placed beside crudités of the same length. When served in their specially designed ceramic holder, the hors d'oeuvres bloom like some vegetal bouquet.

The level of design, presentation and quality of dining in Shanghai is very sophisticated, but without the pretension that usually accompanies this sort of cosmopolitanism. As long as the food is good, and you get value for money, then it will work.

"After all," my friend informs me one evening, as we warm up to the glowing bar at M on the Bund, "Taco Bell Grande, which just opened, is considered fine dining."

Planet Shanghai

It takes three attempts to order tea at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in the Jin Mao Building and only one shot to get terrifyingly dizzy as 30 floors of perspective swallow me up. The building has 88 floors, and an atrium which begins at the 53rd and ends somewhere bordering nausea. It is an architectural wonder (as I soon discover that such displays of longest, tallest and largest seem to be a dime a dozen), and I am further informed that the building was inspired by the thought of a pen writing on an open page of paper.

I pass the Shanghai Oriental Pearl TV tower; it is a fascinating cross-pollination of architectural references. It has 15 globes of different sizes and levels exemplifying the concept of "large and small pearls dropping unto a jade plate." The building, at 468 meters, is the third highest TV tower in the world.

In the '50s, while other sci-fi writers imagined space and time travel, J.G. Ballard predicted how powerful the televised images would be, how the media landscape would shape emerging consumer societies. He told of widespread fascination in images of fame and of death, and of how even Politics would be a form of mass entertainment, and Consumerism the new religion battling the evil of Boredom.

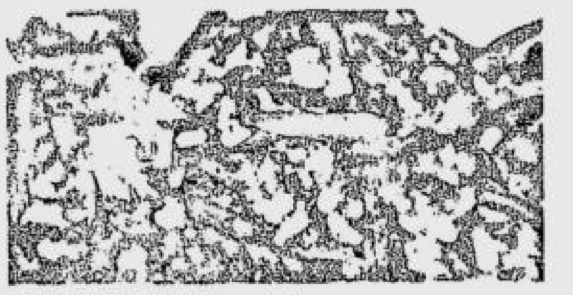
Ballard wrote of a 20th-century amplification of high-rises and motorways, fetishes for technology and other spoils of post-industrial society. Shanghai seems to stand at that intersection and is playing out those psychological legacies, where the tangles of eastern village life is swept into surging western modernity and when people abruptly realize: the future is Now.

Walking along the streets, I stop in front of a restaurant billboard. It shows a view from across the river, with the Oriental Pearls Tower, the Jin Mao Building in the distance. It is a photo of grainy film texture, shot in sepia. It looks like it was taken in the '50s, in an anachronistic wave of both nostalgia and futurama. The buildings look like they are about to be launched into space. The restaurant is called Planet Shanghai. Indeed.

Bonding over Thai food

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor

FRIED bread topped with minced chicken



YAM TUA PLU (bean salad)

FOOD has that great power to unite.

It can bring total strangers together and, somehow, social and cultural barriers come down as dishes are passed around, savored and appreciated. Such was the case for myself and Chef Sukanya Pimnuansri, one of two Thai chefs flown in by the Edsa Shangri-la for a Thai Food Festival at its Garden Café.

Sukanya speaks almost no English; I speak absolutely no Thai. But we communicate through tentative English phrases, hand signals, facial expressions and, yes, the wonders of taste. I take sips or bites of the dishes she prepared, then recite likely ingredients. A half-smile from Sukanya means "yes," a befuddled look, "no."

Six, no less

Our getting-to-know-you begins with a parade of six cold appetizers. Obviously, there has been some miscommunication. Sukanya was asked to prepare a selection from the menu; she cooked an entire day's menu. By the time our motley group has sampled all the appetizers, two have downed jugs of fruit shake to tame the fire on their tongues. And now another keeps excusing herself, as her sinuses have gone on overdrive.

Either on account of caution, or by some accident of nature, I seem more impervious to the spices than my companions. I particularly enjoy *Kung Pla,* a dynamite dish of shrimp coated with a paste of chili, lemon grass and fresh mint leaves. I reckon, though that most Filipinos will go for the sweetish *Khanom Pang Na Gai,* fried bread topped with minced chicken; and *Mee Kathi,* rice noodles topped with shrimp and chicken. Another novel appetizer worth mentioning is the *Yam Som-o,* shrimp tossed with chunks of pomelo (or *suha*) in a chili vinaigrette.

My hands-down favorite comes next: *Tom Kha Gai,* chicken soup in a broth enriched with coconut milk and herbs. The moment it is ladled into my bowl, aromas of lemon grass and coriander waft toward me, and it is as if I have already partaken of the soothing, warming stew. A few sips, and my palate is enveloped in a multitude of tastes. Its base is an oh-so-rich chicken broth, rounded out with the silky milk of coconut and balanced with tart lemon juice. There are chilis, too, but in this dish the spice is drowned out by the rich, savory flavors. I liken it to spiked chicken *binacol,* whose flavor is intensified by hours of simmering over a very low fire. I am no stranger to *Tom Kha Gai,* but this version is the best I have ever tasted.

But right now there are still the main dishes to sample, and Chef Sukanya introduces me to *Massaman Nua,* her own personal favorite. This concoction of sliced beef marinated in tamarind, sugar and spices is unlike the usual Thai curries I am familiar with. I challenge one of the local chefs to cook *Sukayna* some *Calderetang Kambing,* goat stew simmered in a sauce of tomatoes, flavored with liver and *sili.* I suspect that she will like it.

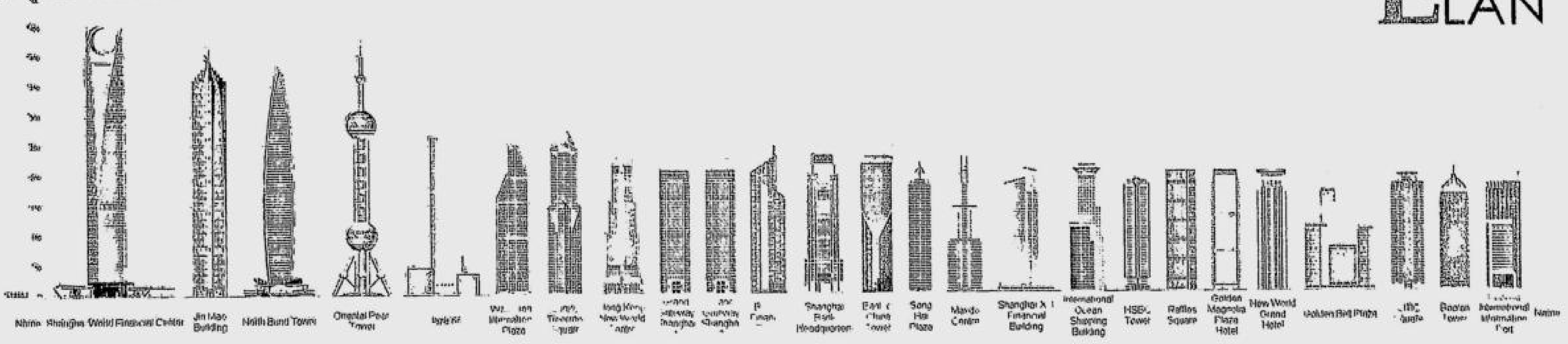
Another must-try is *Pla Ka Pong Sam Ros,* lightly buttered snapper fillets fried and topped with a sweet chili sauce.

What, no mangoes?

Sukanya slips out as we try the desserts which, to Filipino diners, should prove to be novel yet familiar. *Sakoo Tua Dum,* tapioca and black beans in coconut milk, evoke our own summer favorite, the *halo-halo;* and *Woon Kati,* jelly topped with coconut cream, just has to be a distant relative of our local corn pudding, the *maja blanca.*

Towards the end of the meal, it is as though Sukanya and I have formed a bond of sorts, not unlike one between an enthusiastic teacher and an appreciative student. I tease her, "What, no mango with sticky rice?" This draws a controversial response. She tried Philippine mangoes that morning, she says, and found them "not as sweet" as ripe Thai mangoes. I show serious affront and insist that she must have come across a bad batch. There are stories, after all, of the trees that bear Thai mangoes for export actually coming from Philippine cuttings.

But Chef Sukanya means no offense and I happily "forgive" her. After all, she is only half a day into her first visit to Manila, and her first impression is that it feels very much like her home city of Bangkok. I expect she will learn soon enough, as I have over the meal, how much more we have in common.



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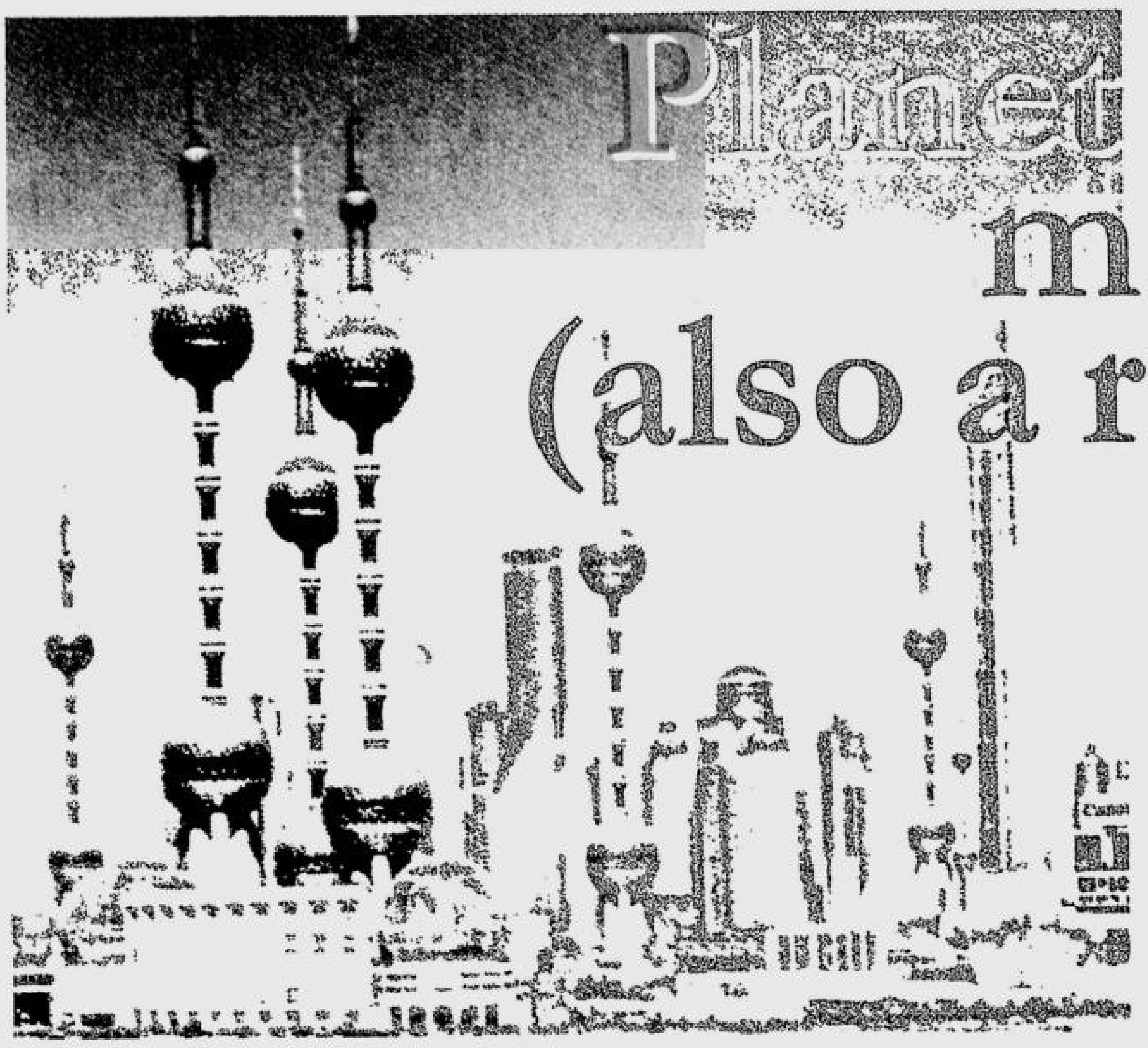
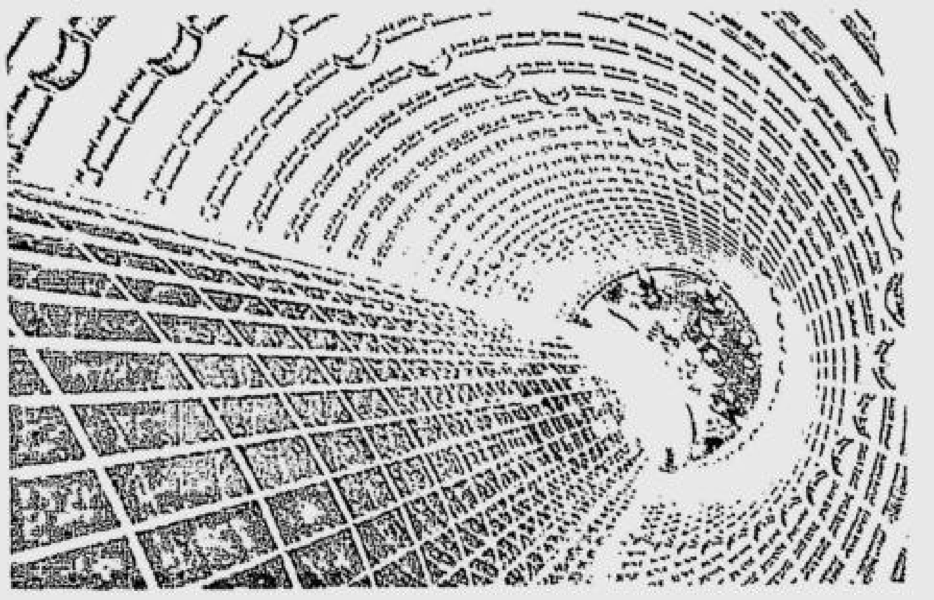


By Bea P. Valdes, Contributor



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"So grey," I tell the guide as we point skyward. "Tomorrow sunny?" I ask.

She laughs, shakes her head, "No."

Constant smog has scratched the sun out of the sky, the result of decade's worth of using low-grade fuel for cooking, heating and for running factories. This permanent haze sits without a horizon to grab on to, as the city is so unbelievably, so purposefully massive. Shanghai is a true megalopolis whose surreal vastness can prove to be either inspirational or sterile. It is a city one encounters in dreams, where there are no markers, names or reference points, just diffused landscapes that flow into the dust and distance. The scale of what is the real Shanghai destroys my faulty nostalgia.

Empire of SARS

In "Empire of The Sun," J.G.Ballard recalls his experiences as a 12-year-old detainee in the Lunghua prison camp in Shanghai. He navigates ravaged territory into scorched worlds, whose wastelands are metaphors for the new modernity. Ballard depicts war with no heroes or heroics, where the only battle is to survive.

Today, Shanghai is a very safe city with almost zero crime rate. One gets a strong sense of security from its manicured sidewalks and rigid, efficient infrastructure. There is nothing arbitrary here, a place of progress for progress, and a city in contrast to chaos theory.

I ask how Shanghai dealt with the SARS epidemic, a different war where, once again, the issue was survival.

Our tour guide reassures us that media's portrayal of SARS was exaggerated. "There are only eight cases of SARS here, none of them Shanghainese. We just had to change the way we do things. Better to wave at each other than to shake hands. People decide to travel to work at times when the subway is not too crowded, or perhaps they take taxis now, with the windows open. But what is most different is how we eat. We like our food family style. But now we serve everyone in individual plates."

The whole dining experience has been altered, in other words.

In total, the disease struck twenty-two of the larger, trendier establishments downtown, with another 10 or so suspiciously "under renovation." The death toll for smaller eateries is still uncertain.

Shintori and other Spaces

In truth, all traces of paranoia seem to have vanished as one strolls down the packed streets of Xintiandi, another example of the globalization of the dining and entertainment complex, complete with faux cobblestone, antiqued street lamps, and the omnipresent Starbucks. Each establishment, regardless of cuisine or restaurant type, is spilling out patrons into the night.

In contrast to the collective at Xintiandi, there are stand-alone restaurants that thrive by word of mouth. Shintori, which occupies a 1,000-meter space that once housed a printing press, is a contemporary canteen with an open kitchen. Polished cement and glass are the only finishes, and yet it does not fall into blandness, maybe because the design lays bare the whole cavernous expanse, exposing the luxury of scale, not of embellishment. Yet dining still feels private, as fluid walls of wooden blinds gracefully quarters its space. The stage is set to relish sensations. The food is traditional Japanese, but artfully presented on modern tableware.

Next door to Shintori is People 6, which also nods towards the architecture of light and space. Traditional Chinese cuisine is restyled into a modern presentation, with serving dishes specially commissioned to accommodate the chef's specifications. Spring Rolls are made long, thin, chopstick-like and then placed beside crudités of the same length. When served in their specially designed ceramic holder, the hors d'oeuvres bloom like some vegetal bouquet.

The level of design, presentation and quality of dining in Shanghai is very sophisticated, but without the pretension that usually accompanies this sort of cosmopolitanism. As long as the food is good, and you get value for money, then it will work.

"After all," my friend informs me one evening, as we warm up to the glowing bar at M on the Bund, "Taco Bell Grande, which just opened, is considered fine dining."

Planet Shanghai

It takes three attempts to order tea at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in the Jin Mao Building and only one shot to get terrifyingly dizzy as 30 floors of perspective swallow me up. The building has 88 floors, and an atrium which begins at the 53rd and ends somewhere bordering nausea. It is an architectural wonder (as I soon discover that such displays of longest, tallest and largest seem to be a dime a dozen), and I am further informed that the building was inspired by the thought of a pen writing on an open page of paper.

I pass the Shanghai Oriental Pearl TV tower; it is a fascinating cross-pollination of architectural references. It has 15 globes of different sizes and levels exemplifying the concept of "large and small pearls dropping unto a jade plate." The building, at 468 meters, is the third highest TV tower in the world.

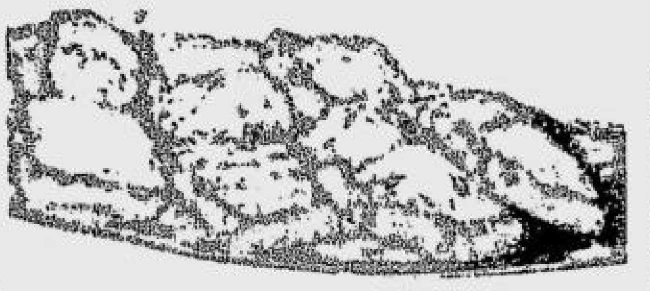
In the '50s, while other sci-fi writers imagined space and time travel, J.G. Ballard predicted how powerful the televised images would be, how the media landscape would shape emerging consumer societies. He told of widespread fascination in images of fame and of death, and of how even Politics would be a form of mass entertainment, and Consumerism the new religion battling the evil of Boredom.

Ballard wrote of a 20th-century amplification of high-rises and motorways, fetishes for technology and other spoils of post-industrial society. Shanghai seems to stand at that intersection and is playing out those psychological legacies, where the tangles of eastern village life is swept into surging western modernity and when people abruptly realize: the future is Now.

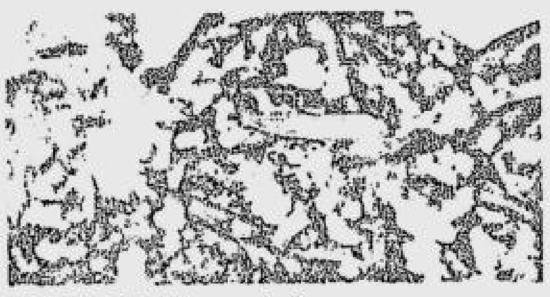
Walking along the streets, I stop in front of a restaurant billboard. It shows a view from across the river, with the Oriental Pearls Tower, the Jin Mao Building in the distance. It is a photo of grainy film texture, shot in sepia. It looks like it was taken in the '50s, in an anachronistic wave of both nostalgia and futurama. The buildings look like they are about to be launched into space. The restaurant is called Planet Shanghai. Indeed.

Bonding over Thai food

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor



FRIED bread topped with minced chicken



YAM TUA PLU (bean salad)

FOOD has that great power to unite.

It can bring total strangers together and, somehow, social and cultural barriers come down as dishes are passed around, savored and appreciated. Such was the case for myself and Chef Sukanya Pimnuansri, one of two Thai chefs flown in by the Edsa Shangri-la for a Thai Food Festival at its Garden Café.

Sukanya speaks almost no English; I speak absolutely no Thai. But we communicate through tentative English phrases, hand signals, facial expressions and, yes, the wonders of taste. I take sips or bites of the dishes she prepared, then recite likely ingredients. A half-smile from Sukanya means "yes," a befuddled look, "no."

Six, no less

Our getting-to-know-you begins with a parade of six cold appetizers. Obviously, there has been some miscommunication. Sukanya was asked to prepare a selection from the menu; she cooked an entire day's menu. By the time our motley group has sampled all the appetizers, two have downed jugs of fruit shake to tame the fire on their tongues. And now another keeps excusing herself, as her sinuses have gone on overdrive.

Either on account of caution, or by some accident of nature, I seem more impervious to the spices than my companions. I particularly enjoy *Kung Pla,* a dynamite dish of shrimp coated with a paste of chili, lemon grass and fresh mint leaves. I reckon, though that most Filipinos will go for the sweetish *Khanom Pang Na Gai*, fried bread topped with minced chicken; and *Mee Kathi,* rice noodles topped with shrimp and chicken. Another novel appetizer worth mentioning is the *Yam Som-o,* shrimp tossed with chunks of pomelo (or *suha*) in a chili vinaigrette.

My hands-down favorite comes next: *Tom Kha Gai,* chicken soup in a broth enriched with coconut milk and herbs. The moment it is ladled into my bowl, aromas of lemon grass and coriander waft toward me, and it is as if I have already partaken of the soothing, warming stew. A few sips, and my palate is enveloped in a multitude of tastes. Its base is an oh-so-rich chicken broth, rounded out with the silky milk of coconut and balanced with tart lemon juice. There are chilis, too, but in this dish the spice is drowned out by the rich, savory flavors. I liken it to spiked chicken *binacol,* whose flavor is intensified by hours of simmering over a very low fire. I am no stranger to *Tom Kha Gai,* but this version is the best I have ever tasted.

But right now there are still the main dishes to sample, and Chef Sukanya introduces me to *Massaman Nua,* her own personal favorite. This concoction of sliced beef marinated in tamarind, sugar and spices is unlike the usual Thai curries I am familiar with. I challenge one of the local chefs to cook *Sukayna* some *Calderetang Kambing,* goat stew simmered in a sauce of tomatoes, flavored with liver and *sili.* I suspect that she will like it.

Another must-try is *Pla Ka Pong Sam Ros,* lightly buttered snapper fillets fried and topped with a sweet chili sauce.

What, no mangoes?

Sukanya slips out as we try the desserts which, to Filipino diners, should prove to be novel yet familiar. *Sakoo Tua Dum,* tapioca and black beans in coconut milk, evoke our own summer favorite, the *halo-halo;* and *Woon Kati,* jelly topped with coconut cream, just has to be a distant relative of our local corn pudding, the *maja blanca.*

Towards the end of the meal, it is as though Sukanya and I have formed a bond of sorts, not unlike one between an enthusiastic teacher and an appreciative student. I tease her, "What, no mango with sticky rice?" This draws a controversial response. She tried Philippine mangoes that morning, she says, and found them "not as sweet" as ripe Thai mangoes. I show serious affront and insist that she must have come across a bad batch. There are stories, after all, of the trees that bear Thai mangoes for export actually coming from Philippine cuttings.

But Chef Sukanya means no offense and I happily "forgive" her. After all, she is only half a day into her first visit to Manila, and her first impression is that it feels very much like her home city of Bangkok. I expect she will learn soon enough, as I have over the meal, how much more we have in common.

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Enter the Wagon

By Martin Valdes, Contributor

Across the metro with the latest Swedish beauty

THE VOLVO showroom is quiet and cool, the silence broken only by the constant hum of an unseen air conditioner and the hushed conversation of a few people. I am reminded of a museum of modern art, with its reverent ambience and sterilized sense of order, and customers and sales persons milling about as they view the models on display.

And here I stand by one of the polished counters, signing a contract that will release the Volvo XC70 to my care for about three days. The marketing coordinator eyes me nervously, taking in my torn jeans, long hair and goatee, probably wondering if I'd be better off endorsing Greenpeace rather than one of their latest drives. After the formalities (no speeding, no drinking *and* driving, no transporting of endangered animals for release into the wild), she leads me to the parking lot and hands me the keys. It's her turn to smile. The new Volvo XC70 Cross Country is… a station wagon?

Or is it? They say first impressions last. The problem with seeing the XC70 for the first time is that I could not make out what my first impression was. Conflicting emotions welled up as I approached. There I was–career bachelor, self-styled bohemian, traveler of the world, advocate of the adrenalin experience, natural-born chauvinist and gourmand of sexuality–about to drive the world's safest family car.

Without tint.

At the same time, I could not deny that it was one of the sexiest things on four wheels I had ever seen, ranking right after Heidi Klum on a skateboard. It looked like the bastard child of a traditional station wagon and some rogue sports-utility vehicle. Clothed in silver, with roof rails, a front skid plate and measuring a languid 4.7 meters in length, it had its father's attitude and it's mother's sense of practicality. Once inside (which took some time due to the fact that I never know how to work those electronic keys), my impression grew even more encouraging.

I've always liked black leather and, I have to admit, it looked much better on the XC70 than it ever did on me. This car is incredibly spacious. It can comfortably seat five adults and haul three golf bags or maybe a dozen cases of beer. Plus, the whole car seemed to be digitized, with buttons and electronic gizmos for every purpose, from climate control to integrated GSM phone, power everything to personalized seat specs. I spent the next five minutes tinkering with all the gadgets, familiarizing myself with most of the controls, wondering if I could program this baby to launch ballistic missiles at hostile buses.

Swedish beauty

It is a strange and beautiful country of flaxen-haired women, a winter sun that sets right after noon, and more Mongolian Barbeque restaurants than Ulan Bator. Sweden is also a land known for many positive things–Bergman, Garbo, Borg, ABBA, IKEA, Tiger Woods' girlfriend. Also a few negatives–Ace of Base, high suicide rates, my ex-girlfriend. Volvo goes right with the positives.

According to their web page, "Volvo," Latin for "I roll," was born on April 14th, 1927 when the first car Jakob left the factory in Gothenburg, Sweden. I can almost imagine Assar Gabrielsson and Gustaf Larsson when they sat in some Swedish pub, sharing a beer and maybe a shank of roasted reindeer, or maybe trying to devise new ways to pick up chicks. But very likely realizing that objectifying women into mere prizes in a social competition would be morally and culturally demeaning, they decided instead to found an automotive company against a backdrop of quality and safety.

The fledgling company produced both closed top and cabriolet models of their new four-cylinder OV4 and PV4 models, which were constructed to better withstand the harsh Swedish climate, than contemporary American imports. Both carried the Swedish symbol for iron attached to a diagonal piece of metal on the front grille–another aspect of Volvo's heritage that is still seen on today's models.

Over the years, the company expanded to manufacture sedans, coupes, convertibles and sportier models that combined all of Volvo's traditional values of safety and environmental care with fresh, elegant and exciting design and engineering. Fast forward to present day, and Volvo's success as an automotive company is evident, having produced several vehicles that have garnered numerous accolades, and almost completely dominating the family market on both coasts of the Atlantic.

Great test

The upside to test driving a vehicle in Metro Manila is that, on any given day, one really gets to test almost everything against the car: how it handles in adverse weather conditions, a hostile driving environment, quick starts and stops, reflexive maneuverability, and random pedestrian traffic. Surely, it doesn't get anymore "off road" than Metro Manila. Today is no exception: the rain is pelting down like hail, EDSA promises to be more populated than an El Shaddai rally, and I am driving to Virra Mall in Greenhills, mecca of aggressive road pirates. Fortunately, I'm sheathed within the Volvo XC70.

This machine is unbelievably smooth. Turning the ignition key does not result in the usual sputter-and-cough start that most vehicles endure to warm their engines. Instead, the XC70 just turns on. Even reversing out of my driveway was an enlightening experience: for all its apparent bulk, the wagon handles much lighter than expected. Also, it is quite easy to assess spatial distance despite its length, given that it seemed to have higher ground clearance than most station wagons I've encountered.

As predicted, the highway is at a crawl and I text my girlfriend to let her know I will arrive in time for her next birthday. At another time, in another car, these driving conditions would be enough to send me into fits of Tourette's syndrome, but oddly enough, I don't mind so much today. Maybe it is the Bebel Gilberto CD being played from the dash, maybe it is the leather upholstery, maybe it is simply knowing that I am behind the wheel of one of the safest drives ever built.

Safety is a big catchword in Volvo, one of their founding concepts. As the press kit states, a Volvo must never take its driver by surprise. They've taken all precautions with the XC70. The AWD (All-Wheel Drive) system ensures rapid power transfers between front and rear wheels when driving conditions change. The system possesses four-wheel Traction Control System (TRACS), which means that, if the wheels on the right-hand side of the car start to slip, these wheels are braked and the left-hand wheels will start to compensate. The XC70 also has possibly enough airbags to float the Titanic. The safety features are myriad, technical and impressive, and they all amount to one idea: if you're taking your family on a sightseeing tour of Baghdad or Monrovia, you'd better be driving a Volvo Cross Country.

In Greenhills (a few days later, it seems), the car once again excels. As I noted earlier, the XC70 is easy to handle, and manages tight traffic like a smaller car. Vendors of all trades, lured by the car's good looks and luxury appearance, immediately swamp the vehicle. But as soon as they see me, they quickly dissipate, probably assuming I had stolen the damn thing.

En route back to Makati, I receive my most pleasant surprise. By this time, traffic has thinned out considerably, and I can put the XC70 through its paces. The 2.5-liter turbo-charged engine is amazing! Sure, it's a station wagon, and if you've got your loved ones in the backseat, you'd want to be cruising safely. But imagine you have to get somewhere in a hurry, drop your wife off at the maternity ward, or get the kids from soccer practice and you're two hours late. The Volvo XC70 can do the job.

There is so much effortless power under the hood, I am tempted to drag race the first SUV that pulls up beside me. The Cross Country also comes standard with a five-speed Geartronic transmission that allows either fully automatic or driver selectable gear changes.

'Volvo vous coucher avec moi?'

Returning the car to the dealership is one of the hardest experiences I've had to endure in recent memory. I've gotten used to the feeling of security as I drive nestled in its leather seats. I've been spoiled by the admiring glances my girlfriend threw my way, due to the fact that I suddenly seemed much more stable, committed and attractive. In fact, I have suffered a total identity crisis. The Volvo XC70 has made me want to get married and have a slew of children just so I could justify having a Volvo XC70.

Okay, strike the last part.

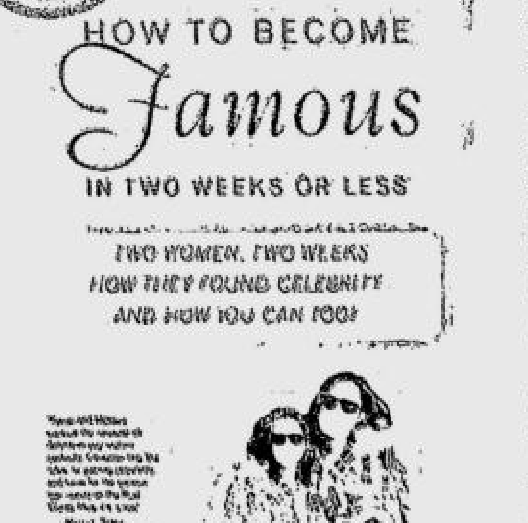
(The Volvo Showroom is located at 2272 Chino Roces Ave, Makati City. For details and inquiries, please call 893-6621.)

How low can you go?

REVIEW

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

Hire your own publicist, throw your own parties and gate crash others while lugging your own photographer



How to Become Famous in Two Weeks or Less
By Melissa de la Cruz and Karen Rabinovitz
Ballantine Books 2003, 298 pages

IN the Cameron Crowe movie "Almost Famous" the young William Miller asks the lovely Penny Lane if she has any normal friends. The "band aid" responds: "Famous people are just more interesting."

Our fascination for celebrity will never be sated. Andy Warhol's declaration that everybody will have their 15 minutes of fame seems to be truer now more than ever. In this age of Reality TV, and on account of the power of mass media over our consciousness, people are now famous just for being famous.

Enter Melissa de la Cruz, the Filipina who penned the fabulously funny "Cat's Meow," and Karen Robinowitz, contributing writing to the New York Times and In Style magazine. Given an assignment by Marie Claire magazine to try to become famous in two weeks, the two enterprising freelance writers expanded the experience into a hilarious "how to" book.

Do it!

The result of their misadventures is a tongue-in-cheek book filled with invaluable tips on how to achieve celebrity via the express route. Of course they live in New York City, center of the Universe where the glitterati congregate, so their tips are very specific to this locale. This is not to say they cannot be adopted by aspiring wannabes elsewhere on the planet.

Basically they just tell us to do whatever it takes to achieve "bold face" status. If it means hiring your own publicist, throwing your own parties and gate crashing others while lugging your own photographer, they say, "Do it!"

In no time at all, you will be reaping the benefits–the "perks" of celebrity. Free restaurant meals, free tickets to coveted shows, maybe free clothes, too. Even the shyest among us is a closet egoist and no one can ever resist the lure of fame.

The best part about reading "How to Be Famous…" is that the girls never take themselves too seriously. Anecdotes on their road to fame will leave you laughing out loud. For instance, they managed to call in favors from contacts they met through writing. The result was a huge party to celebrate the book deal, when the norm is to celebrate book launches!

Not only did they party before a single word was written; they did it at Lot 61, the place of the moment, entering in matching Dior coats and aboard Vespas driven by gorgeous male models courtesy of Ford Agency. They did not have to pay for anything, either; everything was sponsored. After that evening of revelry complete with celebrity guests, photographs of the party appeared on the New York Post's Page Six, the most important society page, bar none. Ironically, not a single picture of the two girls appeared!

Fame is tiresome

Going back to the book, their advice is over the top. The girls suggest hiring people to follow you around, lugging a bodyguard and, if all else fails, doing something scandalous, like walking around naked. (Well, over here, undressing definitely works. Just look at the proliferation of so-called "sexy stars" who have absolutely nothing between their ears, dominating Philippine movies and television.)

The girls also suggest becoming a DJ. This really makes me laugh. A friend of mine in New York has noted that everyone in Manila seems to be a DJ or VJ. Another suggestion that amuses me is to change careers–more specifically, to become a journalist because, they say, people send writers free stuff all the time. That very same friend in New York also tells me that in Manila, anyone can be a stylist or a columnist. The current state of Philippine lifestyle journalism is sufficient illustration.

In the end, both girls agree, fame can be tiresome. At the risk of sounding cliché-ish, they say anonymity is a much better state. They confess that at the peak of their celebrity, they realized they were spending all their time air-kissing people they hardly knew, missing out on quality time with people they really wanted to be with.

Dedicated to anyone "who never got invited to prom," or "those who always got picked last for gym class," this book is best for entertainment purposes and as such, it delivers. If you expect to take serious notes, hoping to be featured in a Maurice Arcache/Tessa Valdes/Tim Yap/Pepper Tehankee/Anton San Diego column or in "Private Conversation with Boy Abunda," you're on the wrong track.

Then again, hiring a bodyguard? Bringing your own photographer? Shamelessly plugging yourself? I guess some tips are worth a try, if only because we've seen them work wonders in these parts.

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

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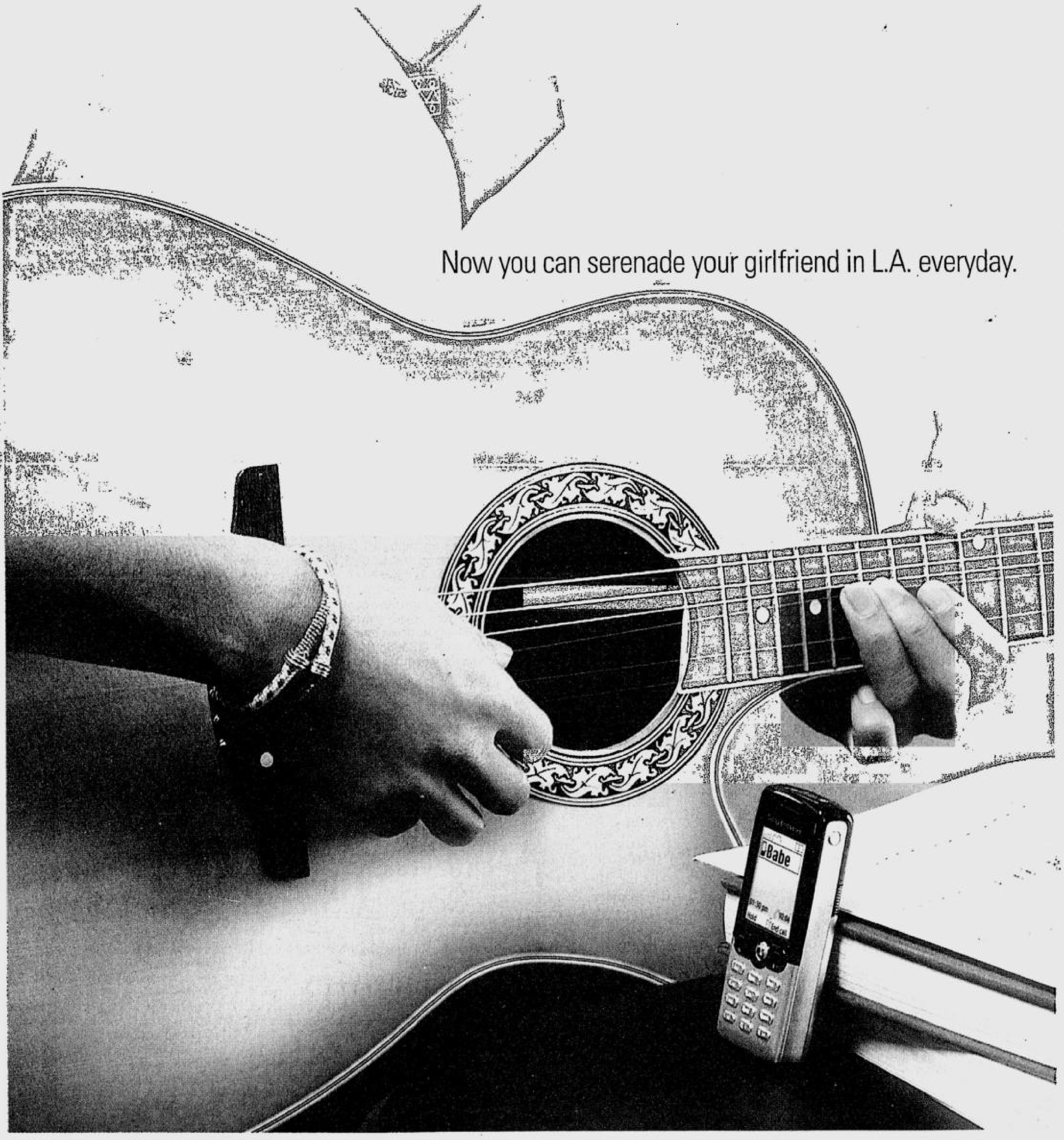

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SATURDAY Special

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre

WINFREY. Major influence on popular tastes and attitudes.

SUPERMAN (far left) and Elvis Presley are in second and third places, respectively.

Oprah tops music channel's list of greatest pop culture icons

LOS ANGELES—Oprah Winfrey is No. 1 on VH1's assessment of the "200 Greatest Pop Culture Icons," a 10-episode ranking of actors, musicians, politicians, academics, sports figures and fictional characters.

Wrestler

Superman is in second place, followed by Elvis Presley. Eminem is No. 31, right after Bill Cosby at No. 30 and ahead of President John F. Kennedy at No. 32. The wrestler, The Rock, is at the bottom, with Queen Latifah at 199 and big-boned "South Park" cartoon character, Cartman, weighing in at 198.

The list, a result of months of watercooler-style arguing among the staff at the music channel, was designed to reflect celebrities who've had the most influence on pop culture. The series debuted Monday on the channel.

Robert Weiss, a VH1 programming executive who oversaw the special, said the show tries to justify its rankings in each segment. Among the tests were: Can you dress as them for Halloween? Would you recognize them by a one-word name? And has "Saturday Night Live" ever parodied them?

Moving target

"I really think pop culture is a moving target, and this list is very much about now in 2003," Weiss said, acknowledging the fickle nature of listmaking. "If we did a list next year, I think there'd be some changes."

Among other oddities on the show, JFK Jr. came in ahead of his father at No. 24, and Albert Einstein, at 108, came in ahead of guitarist Jimi Hendrix at 109. Former President Bill Clinton was No. 18, while former White House intern Monica Lewinsky ranked 161. *AP*

Oscar Moreno remembered

By Nestor U. Torre

MORENO. Enjoyed a flourishing career.

(Before veteran film star Oscar Moreno passed away last week, we were privileged to have been given the opportunity to interview him about his film career, for the book that we're writing about Sampaguita Pictures.

We pay tribute to him by running this excerpt from that interview:)

MOST stars set their sights on stardom and work hard to achieve their goal. Some, however, ease into the movies grudgingly, swept along by events—and yet, they enjoy flourishing careers that last for almost two decades, a really long time as far as local film careers go.

Family friends

Oscar Moreno belongs to that second group. Although the Veras of Sampaguita Pictures were family friends of his own clan, the Ansons, and Pancho Magalona was a buddy, he had no intention to become a movie star, despite his dashing good looks and courtly ways.

It was one of his friends, Manolito Moran, who wanted to see himself on the big screen. When he was given a screen test, Oscar tagged along. His looks made him a standout, so he was invited to also be tested—no strings attached.

As luck would have it, Oscar now recalls more than 50 years after the fact, "*ako ang kinuha nila.* They made me second lead in 'Guerilyera.'" The leads were Carmen Rosales, Tita Duran and Celso Baltazar.

(Tragically, this was to be Baltazar's only film. He dies after making that movie—"*Pauwi siya ng* Bulacan *nung in*-ambush *siya ng* Hukbalahap.")

Major problem

Despite his movie-star projection, Oscar initially had a major problem to surmount before he became a star: "I didn't know how to speak Tagalog! Even a single line like *'Di yata'* took me 11 takes! *Nahirapan si* Octavio Silos, *ang direktor namin sa 'Guerilyera.'*

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PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1

1	TOMB RAIDER 2
2	TERMINATOR 3
3	BANGKOK HAUNTED
4	TOMB RAIDER 2

G4 GLORIETTA 4

1	TOMB RAIDER 2
2	TOMB RAIDER 2
THX 3	GUARANTEED SEATS TOMB RAIDER 2 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20
4	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
5	DOWN WITH LOVE
6	TOMB RAIDER 2
7	TERMINATOR 3

GB1 GREENBELT 1

1	ArtFilm MIRANDA (Exclusive) 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
2	TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00
Onstage	LANI MISALUCHA... LOVING YOU July 25 & 26 - 9pm

GB3 GREENBELT 3

THX 1	GUARANTEED SEATS TOMB RAIDER 2 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15
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7	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8	TERMINATOR 3
9	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
10	WILD BUTTERFLY
11	DOWN WITH LOVE
12	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

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11	DOWN WITH LOVE
12	MASAMANG UGAT

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7	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
8	THE HUNTED
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8	TERMINATOR 3

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9	MASAMANG UGAT
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7	RESERVED
8	THE HOURS

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5	JACKASS
6	TERMINATOR 3

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4	TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

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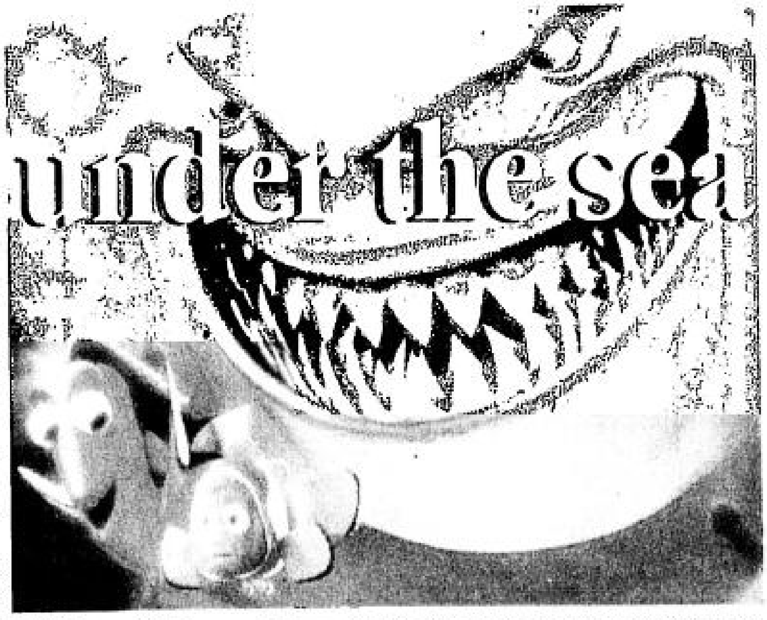
'FINDING NEMO'

Dreamlike rendering of life under the sea



BLUE tang fish Dory and clown fish Marlin search for Nemo in Disney's acclaimed blockbuster.

By Rito P. Asilo

MASSACRE. Abduction. Jailbreak. Father-son tension. Paralyzing personal demons. Attempted homicide.

Brooding themes

Do these sound like your usual brooding themes from the films of Lars Von Trier, Martin Scorsese or Stanley Kubrick? Well, yes. But the film we're talking about is neither a dark gangster flick nor a searing examination of a mother's ultimate sacrifice.

The movie, "Finding Nemo," is Disney-Pixar's fifth full-length feature after "A Bug's Life," "Monsters, Inc." and "Toy Story," which seamlessly weave their stories around themes that movie viewers can relate to, regardless of age demographics.

The movie's story takes place in the deep, blue sea as we follow the adventures of Marlin (voiced by the brilliant Albert Brooks), a neurotic clown fish with no gift for humor, and his young son Nemo (nine-year-old Alexander Gould), who gets separated from his father.

The older clown fish's paranoia is explained by a tragedy involving the death of his wife, Coral (Elizabeth Perkins), and 399 of their 400 children, who were just about to hatch when predatory barracudas snatched them. So, the brood's sole survivor, Nemo, gets his father's undivided attention.

Deeply scarred

When it's time for Nemo to attend school, the deeply scarred Marlin knows the young fish needs to get out into the world. But the worrywart dad is scared to lose the only family he's got. This infuriates Nemo, who wanders out into the ocean drop-off.

Nemo is then caught by an unseen diver and ends up in the salt-water aquarium of a dental clinic, as the latter awaits the visit of his bratty eight-year-old niece, Darla, to whom he intends to give Nemo as a present.

Meanwhile, as Marlin frantically searches for his wayward son, he meets Dory (Ellen DeGeneres), a cheerful, good-intentioned blue tang fish with no short-term memory, who helps him find Nemo.

In the fish tank, Nemo meets an eccentric but lovable bunch of fishes who have been in the dentist's aquarium long enough to master dental procedures, headed by Gill (Willem Dafoe), an Obi Wan-like idol fish, who readily adopts Nemo.

The group soon starts concocting a plan to free Nemo before the scary-looking Darla (who later enters to the shrieking theme of "Psycho"!), known to them as a fish killer, arrives to claim him.

Fatherly quest

On their way to Sydney, Australia, Marlin and Dory meet a host of colorful undersea and avian creatures who, after word about their search spreads, decide to help the pair because Marlin's fatherly quixotic quest tugs at their heartstrings.

The film doesn't limit itself to a particular age bracket—it's a delightful adventure for kids, as well as a rapturous emotional experience for adults.

Among the movie's fascinating creatures are: Three sharks—a great white, a mako and a hammerhead who form a Fish-Eaters Anonymous, not unlike AA, to curb their murderous addiction to fish flesh, by chanting mantras like "Fish are friends, not food"; a menacing flock of predatory seagulls; a school of lethal pink jellyfish; a 150-year-old turtle (voiced by director Andrew Stanton) and a wacky, gossipy pelican (Geoffrey Rush), who plays a significant role in the story.

If the masterful storytelling and engaging narrative don't charm you, the beauty of the underwater flora and fauna will leave you breathless. The animators manage to paint a dreamlike, almost hypnotic, rendering of aquatic life, a jaw-dropping world of wonders with an atmosphere of danger not common among Disney's animated classics, in whose worlds you get your sense of doom mostly from the bad guys. We never felt this lurk-behind-the-murk mood in 1989's "The Little Mermaid"!

Perky performances

The actors who voice the characters deliver exceptional, perky performances. But, more than the acting, this is a triumph of casting. The inherent sadness and neurosis in Brooks' performance give heart to his character, while DeGeneres' irresistibly playful Dory is a delightful howler that complements Marlin's doom-and-gloom demeanor. (Her whale-speak is a comic highlight.)

The sparkling verve of the film's imagery never overpowers its narrative. The engaging human interest story, breathtaking visuals and feisty performances work in synergy to give this blockbuster (so far, more than $300 million at the box-office!) a smart, classy sheen, and a shot to follow the Oscar triumph of Hatao Miyazaki's "Castle in the Sky" in the animation category.

Moreover, if Hollywood doesn't churn out better films before December, we wouldn't be surprised to see "Finding Nemo" in the short-list of the year's best films.

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Oscar Moreno remembered

From page D1

"Still, they must have liked my performance, because they made me the lead in 'Unang Pag-ibig,' with Tita Duran, in 1947, another Octavio Silos movie. It was Tita's first 'young adult' role.

"The public reaction was good, so *sunud-sunod na.* Tita and I became such a busy love team that, at one time, we were shooting three movies together.

"In those days, shooting took two or three months per film, depending on actors' availability. We used big, bulky cameras and live sound. *Bihira ang* dubbing *nung araw.*

"I was also directed by Lorenzo Tuells in 'Si, Si, Señorita,' a light comedy with Carmen Rosales. He was the one who changed my screen name from Oscar Anson to Oscar Moreno.

Light comedy

"At first, I didn't know what I was good at. Eventually, however, I found myself liking light comedy and romances. I found drama too heavy. Also, I didn't believe in *salitang malalim* for movie dialogue, and that was used a lot in dramas. When I did get flowery, poetic dialogue to deliver, *pinapalitan ko* with ordinary lingo.

"I confess, I was the 'spoiled brat' at Sampaguita. I was close to Judge Vera. After lunch, we used to play chess. *Habang di niya ako matalo, di ako maka-alis, kahit may* shooting *ako. Kaya, naiinis sa akin si* Mommy Vera, because she was in charge of production.

"One time, Judge Vera and I were playing until 4 p.m. because I wasn't losing, and Mommy Vera was fuming. Finally she put her foot down and told the judge, '*Basta ya, estan esperando" (Naghihintay ang* shooting *kay* Oscar, *tama na yang* chess!)'

"When I was late for shooting, I would be made to sleep in the tower room of the Vera-Perez residence at the studio, so I would wake up on time the following day, and no longer be a cause of delay for the production.

"Later, *ginawan ako ng* nipa hut *sa tabi ng* basketball court. *Tapos, may* two-storey house *na ginagamit na* set *sa* shooting, *doon naman ako nilipat.* All this was done, despite the additional expense, because it was less expensive for the company than waiting for me before shooting could start.

"*Ang maganda sa* Sampaguita *noon, walang inggitan.* There was a Small *Ratones* group made up of the crew. *Basta may* party, *kasama rin sila.* I also remember that, at one time, *naging presidente ako ng* Sampaguita Family Club."

(To be concluded)

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*20% discount on Food & Beverage charges if it rains for at least 3 hours. Rate is subject to service charge and applicable government taxes. Prior reservations required and is subject to availability. Proof of Philippine residency is required upon check-in. Offer is valid until September 30, 2003 (except August 10-16). Mactan Island Resort is in Punta Engaño Road, Lapu-Lapu City 6015, Cebu, Philippines. Per DTI-Cebu Permit No.298 Series of 2003.

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Genuine love for performing

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE'RE glad that Cris Villionco is coming into her own as a solo performer, both in musical theater and in the field of pop music. Let's make it a point not to miss her performance of retro music at Dish at Rockwell Powerplant, 8 p.m. on July 31 and Aug. 14.

VILLONCO. Coming into her own as a solo performer.

We like Cris as a performer because, unlike many other entertainers her age, she isn't the slick product of a *"de-kahon"* talent development and buildup campaign. She has real rather than "manufactured" talent, lots of heart, a good head on her shoulders, and a genuine love for performing.

Thus, you won't catch her on TV gushing about her love team partner, crying over the latest ersatz controversy in her life, and breathlessly urging viewers to catch her latest entertainment showcase *"kasi, maganda po siya, sobra, at may* moral *lesson pa!"*

Thanks to the loving but level-headed upbringing she's had, Cris doesn't have to go the way of all show biz fuss and bother. With her, what you see is what you get—and that's a lot!

It's a good thing that she's going solo at Dish, but we'd be even happier if Cris performed in a new stage musical real soon. In our view, the stage is where she can make the fullest use of her performing gifts, and where she truly belongs.

Movies on TV

On HBO, July 26 at 4 p.m., "Cats and Dogs." 11:10 p.m., "Six Feet Under: Driving Mr. Mossback." July 27 at 6:30 a.m., "Murder, She Wrote: The Last Free Man." 1 p.m., "Sleepless in Seattle." 10:15 p.m., "America's Sweethearts." 1:35 a.m., "The Masque of the Red Death."

July 28 at 6:30 a.m., "Stealing Beauty." July 29 at 10 p.m., "Six Feet Under: The Invisible Woman." July 30 at 3:45 p.m., "Riding in Cars with Boys." July 31 at 11 p.m., "Evolution."

On the Cinemax channel: July 26 at 7:30 a.m., "Hamburger Hill." 12:30 p.m., "Strictly Ballroom." July 27 at 6:30 a.m., "Do the Right Thing." 3:15 p.m., "The Bonfire of the Vanities." 10:45 p.m., "My Horrible Year."

July 28 at 7:45 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: Hanging By A Thread." 5:30 p.m., "The Three Worlds of Gulliver." July 29 at 8:30 a.m., "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town." 12:15 p.m., "A Place in the Sun." 9 p.m., "Mission Impossible 2."

July 30 at 8:15 a.m., "3000 Miles to Graceland." 9 p.m., "Lean on Me." July 31 at 10:45 p.m., "Look Who's Talking."

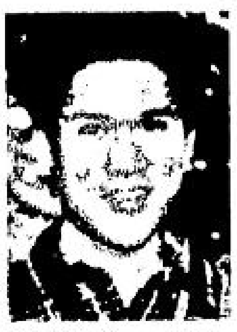
YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JULY 26 - AUG 1

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	[illegible]	[illegible]
	6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:30 Buttercup 9:00 Arriba, Arriba 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 To be Announced	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Search for a Star 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *Rated Prime (RPN Anniversary) Replay* 11:00 PGMA	5:00 National Basketball League 7:00 Global Family Series 7:30 Kidscetera 8:00 Amazing Twins 11:00 Iyo Ang Katarungan	6:00 Combat Mission 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 The Working President 10:00 Standing Room Only	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Ispup alpb. 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 K! 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *The Sixth Sense* 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Drive* 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Global Family Series 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Jimmy Neutron 6:30 Futurama 7:00 Digital tour 7:30 Spy TV 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Just Shoot Me 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The West Wing 10:30 Scariest Places on Earth 11:30 News Central	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! Coming Attractions 6:30 FYE 7:00 E! Original Specials 8:00 Rank 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 Movies on E!
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7:30 Game K N B? 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Headlines 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Family Rosary Crusade 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 F 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Lavender 7:40 Narito Ang Puso Ko 8:10 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:50 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 9:30 Da Boy and Da Girl 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	6:00 Crayon Shin Chan 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 Harsh Realm 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 OPTV	6:00 Quantum Info 6:30 NBA Jam 9:30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Bully 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:00 Basta't Kasama Kita- 7:30 Game K N B? 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo	6:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko, 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Brain Freeze 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Wedding Works 11:00 Bugs	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Lavender 7:40 Narito Ang Puso Ko 8:10 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:50 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 9:30 Kool Ka Lang 11:00 Saksi 11:30 The Probe Team	6:00 Crayon Shin Chan 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 GSIS @ Ur Service	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 9-Ball Billiard 8:00 Global Family Series 10:00 Travel 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Up Close and Personal 11:30 National Basketball League	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Smallville 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7:30 Game K N B? 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Whattamen 10:00 Klasmeyts 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Pipol	5:00 PBA Games 10:00 MMDA on The Road 11:00 Magbuhay Professional 11:30 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Lavender 7:40 Narito Ang Puso Ko 8:10 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:50 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 9:30 Nuts Entertainment 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	6:00 Crayon Shin Chan 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Malcolm in the Middle 7:30 Still Standing 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Everwood 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Girls Behaving Badly	5:00 PBA Games 10:00 Global Family Series 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 National Basketball League	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 CSI 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 E! Features 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7:30 Game K N B? 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Gus Abelgas Nag-uulat	6:00 The Working President 7:00 Ugnayan Pambansa 8:00 TeleDyaryo	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Working 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Lavender 7:40 Narito Ang Puso Ko 8:10 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:50 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 9:30 Magpakailanman 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Debate	6:00 Crayon Shin Chan 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Baby Bob 7:30 Sabrina 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Crossing Jordan 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Kasangga Mo'ng Langit	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 Global Family Series 9:30 CelebrityDatCom 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 National Basketball League	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:00 Basta't Kasama Kita 7:30 Game K N B? 8:00 Darating Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Isyu	5:00 PBA Games 10:00 To be Announced! 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 Fancy Lala 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Lavender 7:40 Narito Ang Puso Ko 8:10 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:50 Ang Iibigin Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 9:30 Bubble Gang 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Emergency	6:00 Crayon Shin Chan 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 The Pretender 8:00 Just for Laffs 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 Dead Zone 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	5:00 PBA Games 10:00 Entrepinoy 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Kartada Alas 12:00 GMA The Working President	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 X-Men 7:30 Justice League 8:00 Angel 9:00 The Bachelor 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 E! Features 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On

'The Debut' vivifies Fil-Am experience on big screen

By Nestor U. Torre

Conclusion



DANTE Basco plays Ben Mercado, the movie's young protagonist.

SCREENWRITER John Manal Castro and director Gene Cajayon met at the premiere of John's movie, and they worked together on the screenplay of Cajayon's "The Debut," which became, writes Dawn Bohulano Mabalon, "a loosely autobiographical account based on Gene's Orange County upbringing, John's San Jose experiences, and the collective stories of many Filipino-American friends and relatives. John brought a dose of street credibility and class consciousness to the script."

Eighth draft

After completing the eighth draft of the movie's screenplay, Gene and John tried to get producers in Hollywood interested in backing it, but they begged off.

Happily, the National Asian American Telecommunications Association later awarded "The Debut" a production grant, and Lisa Onodera, producer of "Picture Bride," helped raise the remainder of the budget.

In 1997, Gene and Lisa came to the Philippines to cast the film's adult leads. They signed up Tirso Cruz III, Gina Alajar and Eddie Garcia.

The film was then shot, edited and given test screenings. It had an SRO premiere in May 2000 at the 15th Annual Visual Communications Asian Pacific Film and Video Festival in Los Angeles.

In July, it won the Best Narrative Feature Film award at the San Diego Asian Film Festival. In November, it took home the Audience Award for Best Feature Film at the Hawaii International Film Festival.

Now, Columbia has picked it up for mainstream distribution, and "The Debut" will finally be screened in the Philippines this month—a tribute not just to Fil-Americans film artists' creativity, but also to their determination!

For readers interested in knowing more about the Fil-Am leads of "The Debut," here are some biographical notes on them:

Dante Basco, who plays Ben Mercado, the movie's protagonist, has signed a development deal with the Fox channel for his own TV series. He played Rufio in Steven Spielberg's "Hook." He starred in the independent features, "But I'm a Cheerleader" and "Rave."

Theater performances

Bernadette Balagtas (Ben's sister, Rose) has been featured in movies like "Chairman of the Board," "High School High" and James L. Brooks' award-winning "As Good As It Gets." In addition to film and theater performances, she's a stand-up comedienne.

Joy Bisco (Annabelle, Ben's love interest) has co-starred on TV shows like "Diagnosis Murder," "JAG" and "Strangeluck." She also had roles in the television pilots, "Bladesquad" and "All About Us."

Darion Basco (Augusto) starred in "Hundred Percent," a quirky Asian American comedy that opened the Chicago Asian-American Showcase and the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film and Video Festival.

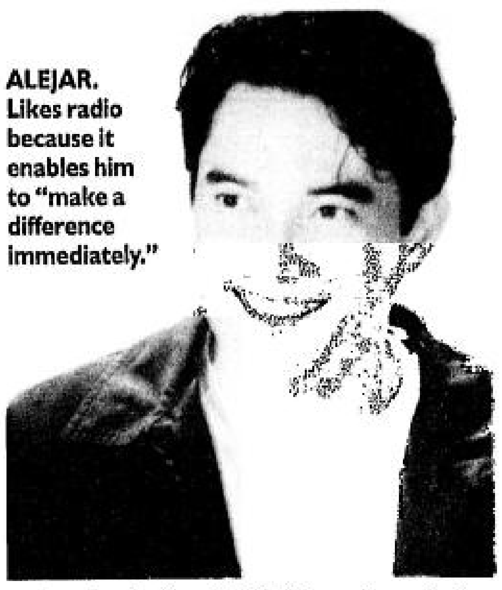
'THE DEBUT'/ D7

AM/FM

Alejar reinvents himself as radio host

By Rito P. Asilo

(Conclusion)



ALEJAR. Likes radio because it enables him to "make a difference immediately."

ANOTHER caller asks "Sey Mo, Sey Ko" host Jojo Alejar if he has a moral obligation after his girlfriend miscarries their baby. (Jojo says yes. For every freedom enjoyed, there's a degree of responsibility involved.)

Pain

A girl agonizes over her father's remarrying shortly after her mother died. (Your dad went through as much pain as you have. Give them a chance before you make any judgment.)

A woman shares her dark past with a man who seems to understand her. Should she trust him? (Too early to tell. You will know in time. Pray.)

How do you know if a person truly loves you? (When even little things mean a lot. Jojo and co-host Mean Villanueva enumerate examples: "When a person texts, *"Wala lang, miss lang kita"*; "When a person steals glances at you and does it for no apparent reason"; "You finish each other's sentences"; "You read each other's thoughts"; "You enjoy sharing *baduy* things together.")

But Jojo and Mean are quick to add that they don't offer solutions, just options from an objective point of view.

Their team-up works because it isn't rigid. The hosts' fans enjoy listening to them laugh and poke fun at each other.

As for Alejar, the more talkative half, he explains why he likes doing radio: *"Mas gusto ko talaga dito kasi deretsahan.* You make a difference immediately." We are sure his avid listeners agree.

Radio is indeed every man's platform, devoid of TV's sugar-coated pleasantries. The age of technology allows people from all walks of life to join in the fun. This is further enhanced by SMS and text messaging. Opinions are just a few cell phone clicks away.

Incidentally, we notice that, in many nighttime programs, people recklessly announce their mobile numbers in their search for friends—and lovers. This was not as rampant two years ago. On another show, we were amused to hear an obviously annoyed female caller complaining about having been "ignored" by a man who had been seeking textmates. But, upon closer scrutiny, we learned that there was a detail in the guy's invitation that she didn't give much attention to—he wanted another guy!

Sports treat on FM

If you feel there aren't enough shows on sports, K-Lite 103.5 FM has the right program for you. Hosted by PBA anchor and

ALEJAR/ D6

Immortal songs, vivid performances in 'kundiman' show

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

A NIGHT of *kundiman* music isn't likely to appeal to the young generation, but we were surprised to see young people trooping to the CCP last July 15 to watch "Kung Hindi Man . . . Isang Gabi ng Kundiman," a concert celebrating immortal Filipino love songs.

Sold out

We were amazed to see patrons queuing up at the theater box office, waiting for spare tickets, since the night's show was already sold out.

As the show was being performed, more youngsters were ushered inside the theater after every number.

At first, we were distracted by this. But, on a positive note, we were pleased that those young viewers went out of their way to see the show, and hoped that they would be satisfied with what they heard.

The internationally acclaimed Philippine Madrigal Singers were the main artists for the night, serenading the audience with timeless songs penned by great Filipino musicians, from Nicanor Abelardo and Francisco Santiago to George Canceco.

ZAENS. Soulful rendition.

The concert was part of the ongoing Sangandaan Festival, commemorating a century of Philippine-American relations—so, songs popularized during the American period were also part of the program.

Aside from name guest artists, baritone Jonathan Zaens and soprano Rachelle Gerodias also performed.

Zaens' soulful rendition of Santiago's "Pakiusap" held the audience spellbound. And we couldn't help but overhear someone at the back whispering, *"Ang galing, no?"* Gerodias' performance of the classic tune, "Mutya ng Pasig," was also a treat.

Comic touches

The Madz entertained the audience with their powerful blending of voices, with occasional comic touches in some songs.

Pinky Marquez, Bimbo Cerrudo and Richard Reynoso added more sparkle to the beautiful music pieces they were performing.

Well-loved masterpieces such as "Anak Dalita," "Magbalik Ka Hirang," "Minamahal Kita" and "Gaano Ko Ikaw Ka Mahal" were also showcased.

We hope that more shows like this will be staged, and that the youngsters who were present last July 15 weren't there only to comply with a school requirement. More young people should learn to appreciate *kundiman* shows, so they will be made aware of the richness and magnificence of Filipino music.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Alejar reinvents . . .

From page D5

all-around sports buff Anthony Suntay, "Sportslite" (Saturdays, 3-3:30 p.m.) will fill you in on everything sporty.

It's a weekly interactive show about your favorite sports and sportsmen. Occasionally, though, its airtime gets moved when guests show up late!

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
Ali 2	MASAMANG UGAT
Ali 3	TERMINATOR 3
Ali 4	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 5	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 6	BANGKOK HANUTED
Ali 7	DEATH WATCH

ARANETA COLISEUM

JULY 26	DON MOEN CONCERT
JULY 31	UAAP GAMES
AUG 01	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 02	JUST ONCE...GREATEST HITS
AUG 03	DON MOEN CONCERT
AUG 7	UAAP GAMES
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SABIK SA PAGIBIG
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SABIK SA PAGIBIG
B	TOMB RAIDER 2
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SABIK SA PAGI-BIG
CINEMA-2	JACKASS
CINEMA-3	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGELS 2
CINEMA-6	WILD BUTTERFLY
CINEMA-7	BAD INSTINCT
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-12	LIZZIE MCGUIRE
CINEMA-14	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-15	BANGKOK HAUNTED
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA 2	HUNTED
CINEMA 3	JACKASS
CINEMA 4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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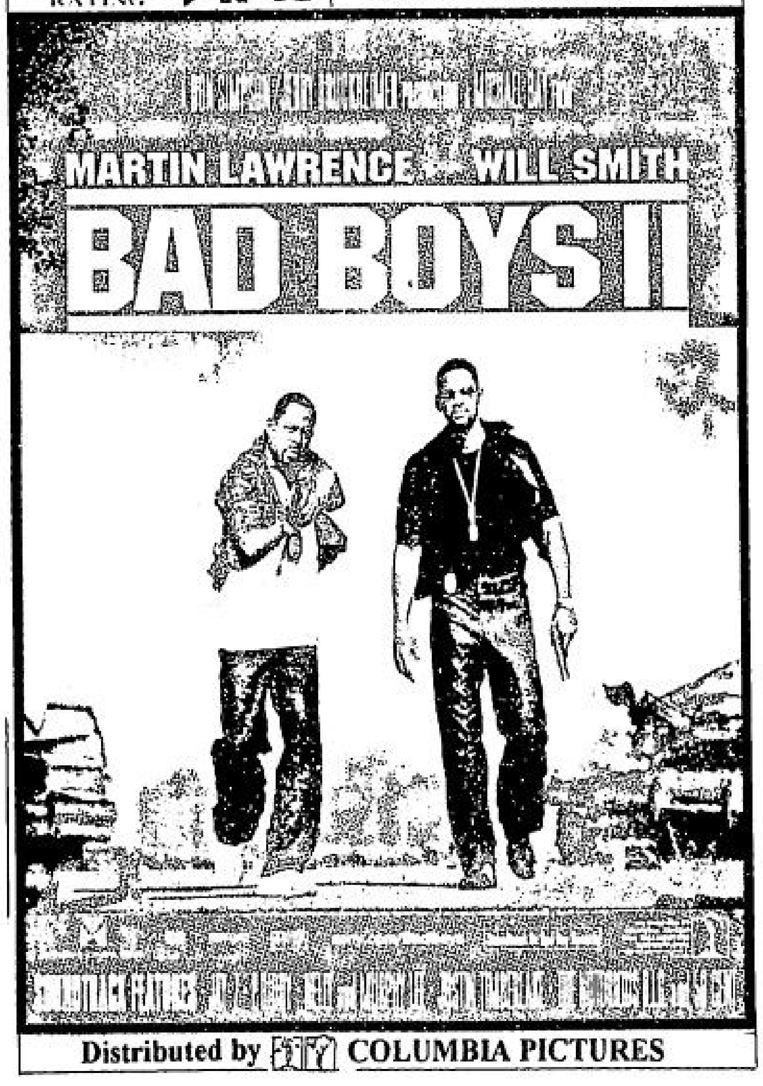
MARTIN LAWRENCE WILL SMITH
BAD BOYS II

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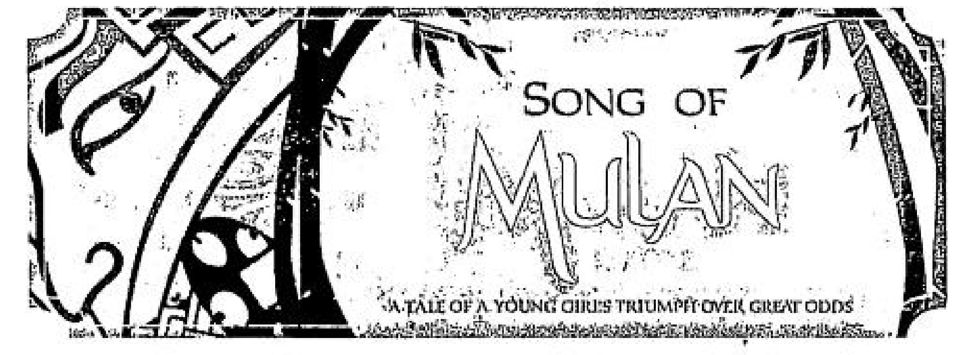
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A TALE OF A YOUNG GIRL'S TRIUMPH OVER GREAT ODDS

Nancy Castiglione as Mulan • Greg Turvey as Captain Shang • Directed by Freddie Santos

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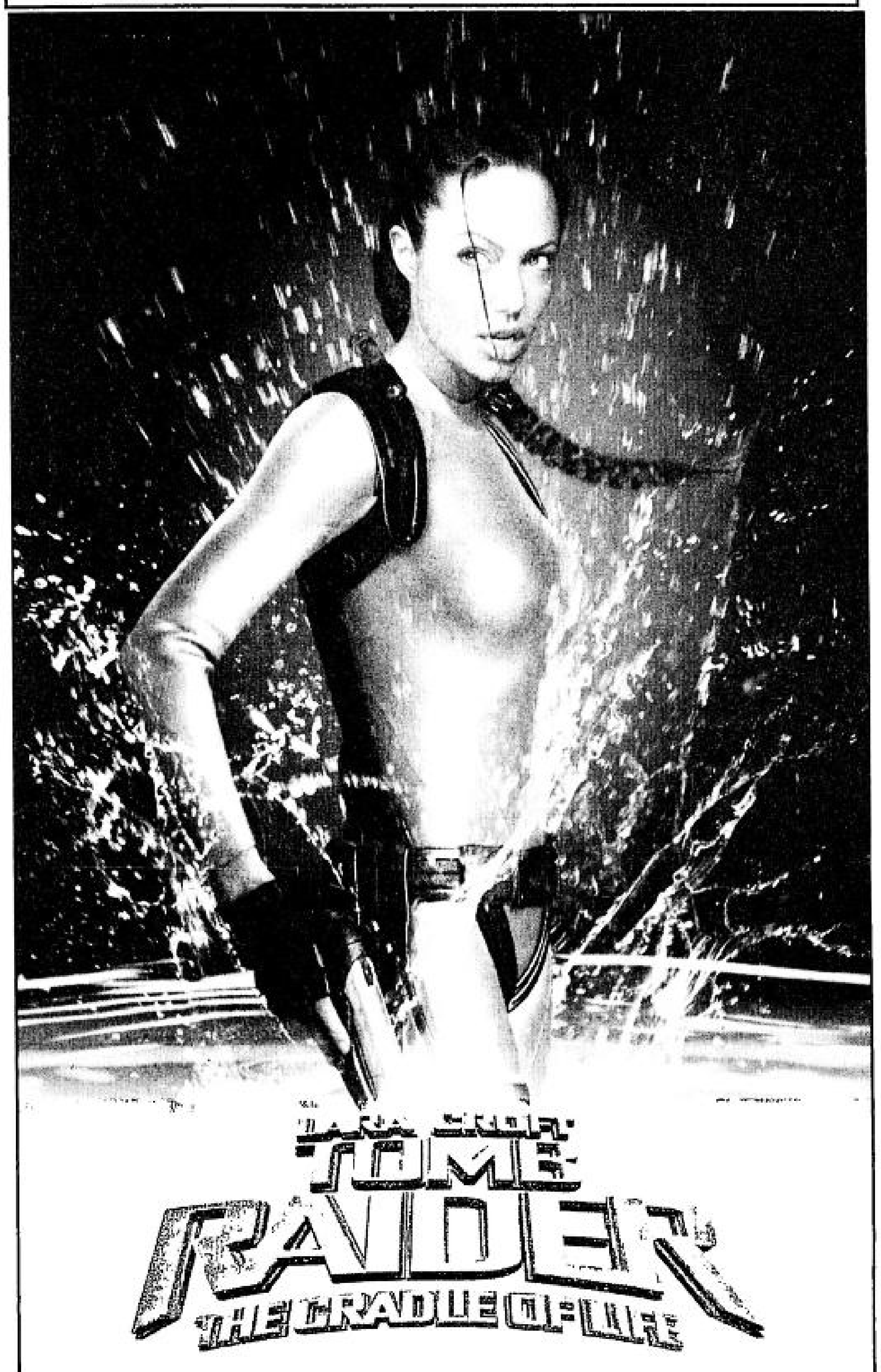
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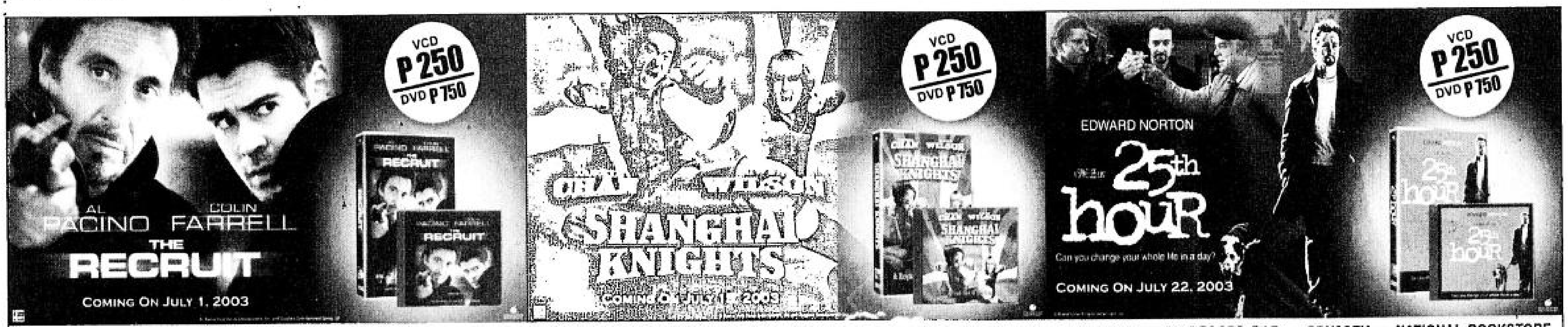
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Forum analyzes plight of local movies

By Rica Arevalo

RED. Pushed for space for alternative cinema.

AROUND 400 students and educators flocked to the Media Morphosis Inquirer Seminar Series last July 19 at the RCBC Towers. I caught the last module, where film directors Jose Javier Reyes, Raymond Red and Joyce Bernal tackled the daunting realities of Philippine cinema.

Conditions

Reyes spoke about commercial filmmaking. He said, "In our country, filmmaking is getting to be more and more difficult. *Natutuwa ako dahil ang dami pang may interes na pumasok sa* filmmaking. At the same time, *nalulungkot ako dahil hindi ko nasisiguro kung meron pang* Filipino movie industry by the time you enter the film world!"

He stressed that the film industry is "dying," citing that it now costs around P15 million to make a decent film. For that film to profit, it must make at least P45 million at the box office.

One also has to consider that the Filipino film will go up against Hollywood blockbuster movies, like "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle," "Tomb Raider 2" or "Harry Potter," with their Dolby surround or THX sound engineering.

Distinction

"In 1999, there were 127 Filipino films. This year, we would lucky to hit 50. There is no more distinction between television and film. There are no exclusive film stars or directors, everybody is into multimedia. In order for you to find work, you have to do the kind of films 'prescribed' by companies, rather than films which are close to your heart," shared Reyes.

Two of the best films that have been shown this year are from Filipino filmmakers: Maryo delos Reyes' "Magnifico" and Gil Portes' "Munting Tinig." Reyes pointed out, "They are lovely films. *Isa lang ang problema—walang nanood.*"

Is there an alternative? He added, "Definitely! *Bata kayo.* Revolutionize. Think out of the box! God knows we don't need more clones of the filmmakers we have now. If we want to push Philippine cinema further, we should stop doing the kinds of movies that we are making. *Kaya natin ito, kung kayo ay magiging mas matapang kesa sa mga katulad naming gurang!*"

On the other hand, Raymond Red pushed for a space for alternative cinema. "There is this growing movement of young filmmakers working on new formats, directions and approaches in film. Cinema is dying but I firmly believe it is going to have a rebirth," said Red.

Limit

He stressed, "We shouldn't limit our work locally. I think *yon ang naging sakit ng* movie industry *natin. Parang masyadong napako na dapat kumita ng pera sa* Philippine market *lang,* whereas our Asian neighbors, *matagal nang umiikot at nananalo sa mga* festivals, and are picked up by major distribution companies. They are seen all over the world—no big stars, they are not dubbed in English, yet their films are appreciated."

Red believes that the digital revolution will pave the way for this rebirth. "With new ideas, young filmmakers working on the new format, we now have a new cinema. When I say 'cinema,' it is about consciousness, culture and psyche. This is a very powerful tool. There are a lot of people using digital stills in their phones, MMS—*nag-iiba ang sistema ng pag-*produce *ng material, at sistema ng pag-*absorb *ng* messages."

But before making a movie using the new technology, Red advises students to always ask themselves why they are making that film. What is it that they want to say? "By creating a space for alternative cinema, we offer the viewers choices, and we awaken them to a new culture."

For her part, Joyce Bernal clicked with the students because of her candid stories about her experiences as an editor, and as the director of "Booba."

'The Debut' . . .

From page D5

Mime troupe

Conrad Cimarra (Nestor) is a former member of the Tony award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe. He toured the US performing "Aspects," a series of monologues on racism and multiculturalism.

Gina Honda (Tita Florie) has worked extensively in theater, film, television and radio, and has also produced and managed shows in Los Angeles. She won a Virgo Award for Best Female Lead in the play, "Whispers of An Asian Bride."

Emelina Moll (Tita Connie) has performed in numerous plays, commercials and TV shows. She starred in "Flipzoids" at the San Diego Asian American Repertory Theater.

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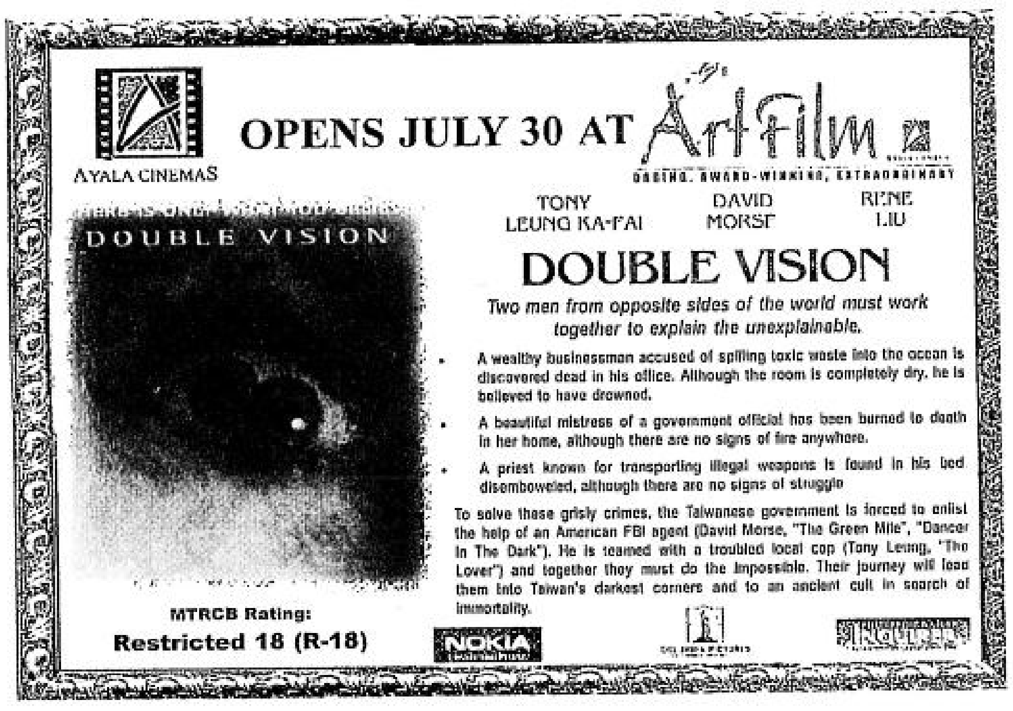
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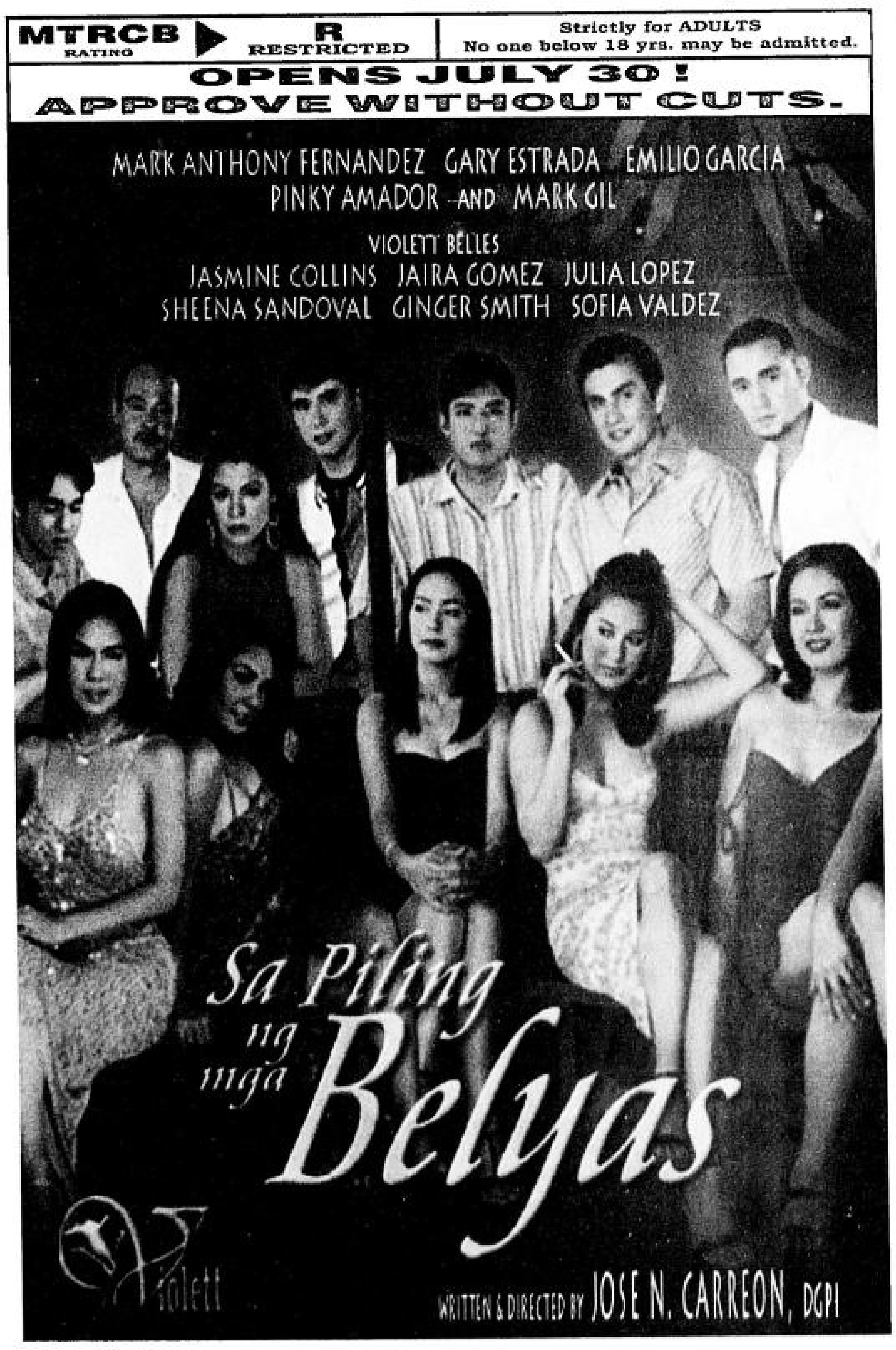
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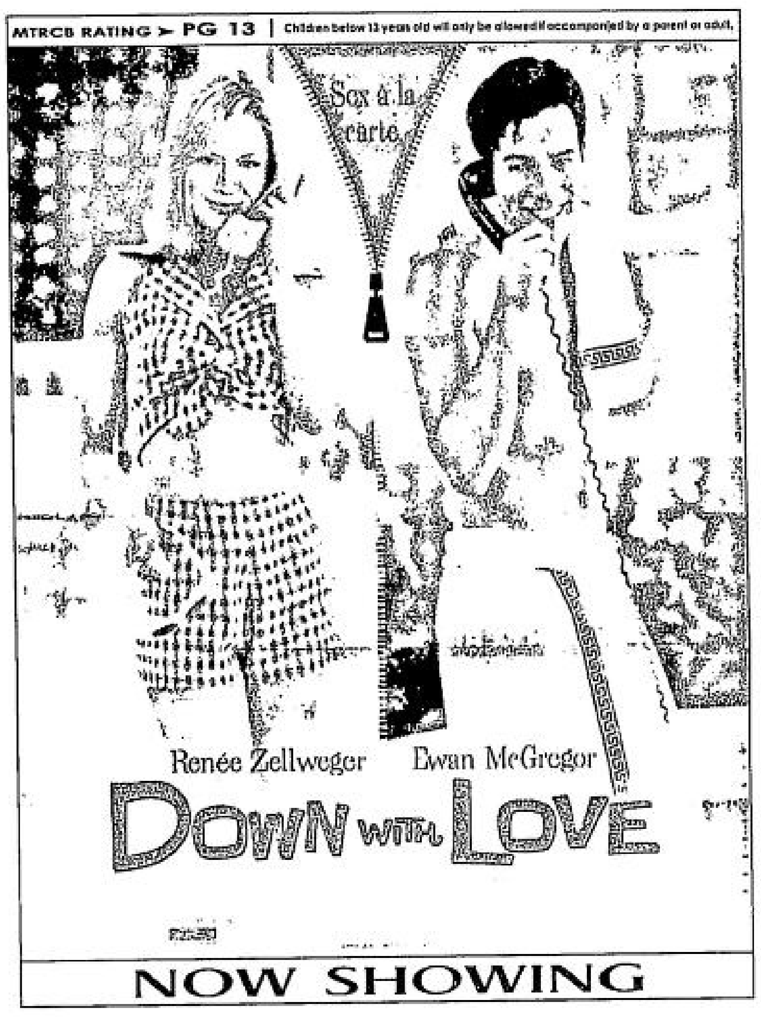
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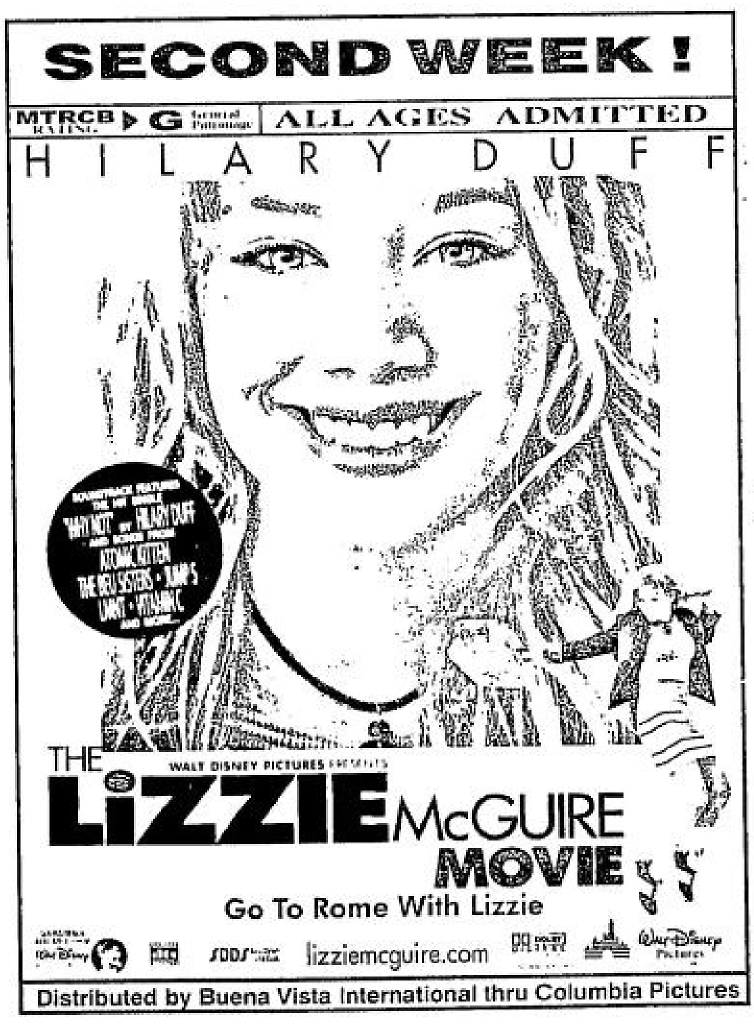
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More amusing title changes

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

OUR Q and A for this week:

From *Donna Sabado of Pangasinan:* "Can you do a follow-up on your feature about movie title changes?"

Thank you for the generous words in your e-mail. Indeed, titles of movies go through amusing—and amazing—changes on their way to theaters around the world.

Trailers

Among the trailers we see these days is one for a movie called "The Lost Island." It may seem like a B-movie, but it really is a masterful 2001 Spanish thriller directed by Stuart Gordon, released in Europe as "Dagon-La Secta del Mar," and as "HP Lovecraft's Dagon" in America.

In video outlets in Greenhills, Keanu Reeves' "Chain Reaction" was retitled "Inferno 2." Was there ever an "Inferno"? Meanwhile, "Million Dollar Hotel," starring Joe Pesci as an unscrupulous landlord sentenced to live in and repair his dilapidated New York apartment block, is really a 1991 big-studio film—"The Super." Pesci, who wowed audiences in "My Cousin Vinny," hasn't appeared in a new film since 1998's "Lethal Weapon 4." The poor quality of the trailers of both films makes them look cheap!

Poster

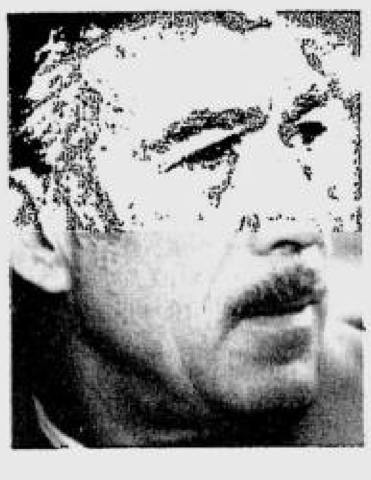
The poster and trailer of "The Verdict," recently shown here, listed a certain "Tony Jackson" as its director. But, the poorly produced sci-fi flick was really "The Vindicator," released 17 years ago! Its Canadian release carried the title, "Frankenstein 86." This was directed by French Canadian megman, Jean-Claude Lord ("Knots Landing"), not by the "Tony Jackson" mentioned.

"The Madness of George III" was "The Madness of King George" in the US. The James Bond film, "License to Kill," was "License Revoked" in England.

The trailer for Mitch Davis' "The Other Side of Heaven," starring Christopher Gorham, started running at SM Cinemas this week, but the film has already been shown on Star Movies. On video, the title became more commercial: "Eye of the Storm."

Alicia Silverstone's straight-to-video movie, "Global Heresy," became "Rock My World" on DVD.

TURNER. Starred in the action flick," V.I. Warshawski."



QUINN. Played Capt. Andres Bonifacio in "Back to Bataan."

"Fiddler on the Roof's" Topol starred in the bohemian Israeli classic, "The Rooster," which became "Boys Will Never Believe It" in the UK.

Controversial movie

Recently, a film called "Behind the Green Door" was released in theaters here, alarming people who had seen the classic triple-X porn movie. But the movie shown here starred soft porn "royalty" Shannon Tweed and James Brolin (Barbra Streisand's hubby), not Ivory girl-turned-porn diva Marilyn Chambers. The controversial movie turned out to be a re-issue of a nine-year-old B-movie, "Indecent Behavior 2."

Nagisa Oshima's erotic masterpiece, "In the Realm of Passion," became "Phantom Love" (France) and "Empire of Passion" (US).

John Wayne's 1945 film, "Back to Bataan," became "Invisible Army" in local video shops. (In the film, Anthony Quinn played Capt. Andres Bonifacio, grandson and namesake of Katipunan's top honcho!)

Schwarzenegger's "Terminator" became "Devil Terminator" in Latin American countries. Costa-Gavras' "Amen," shown at the recent French Spring filmfest, was "The Eye Witness" in France, and "The Representative" in Germany.

French new wave auteur Jean-Jacques Beineix's "Betty Blue," which revolutionized full frontal nudity with its leads, Jean-Hughes Anglade and Beatrice Dalle, was "37.2 Degrees In The Morning" in France and Argentina.

Pedro Almodovar's "Carne Tremula" became "Live Flesh" here and in the US, and "In Flesh And In Bones" in France.

Gunplay

The first John Woo film that employed heavy use of gunplay, "Sunset Warrior," became "Heroes Shed No Tears." The stylish drama, "House of 1000 Women," became "2,000 Women." (The more, the merrier, huh?)

Wong Kar Wai's trans-atlantic gay love story, "Happy Together," became "Happy" in Chile, and "Sudden Appearance of Spring" in China. The latter is supposedly an idiom implying the disclosure of a secret affair between lovers.

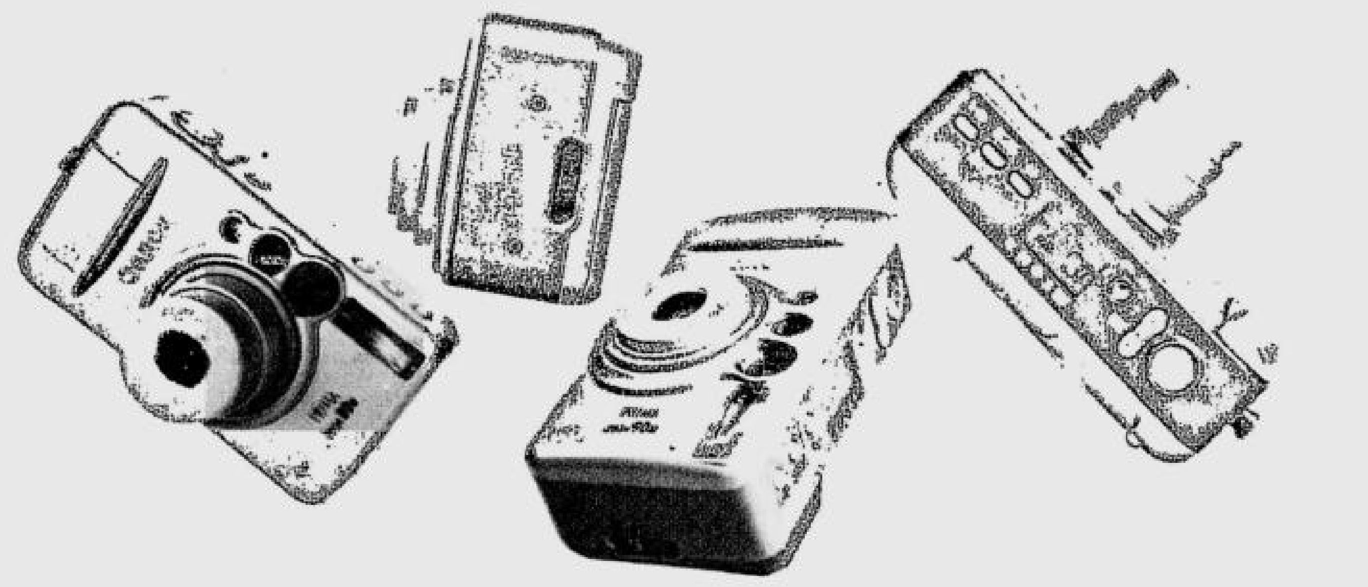
Finally, in Germany, Kathleen Turner's action caper, "V.I. Warshawski," was released as "Detective in Pantyhose." We wonder how they would retitle "Erin Brokovich"—"Paralegal in Micromini"?

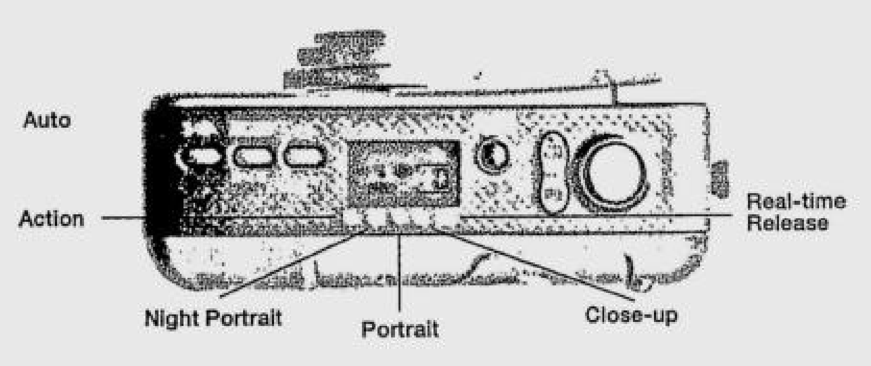
***From John Calomo*: "Which actor first portrayed the 'Hulk' before Eric Bana played both Dr. Bruce Banner and the incredible green monster?"**

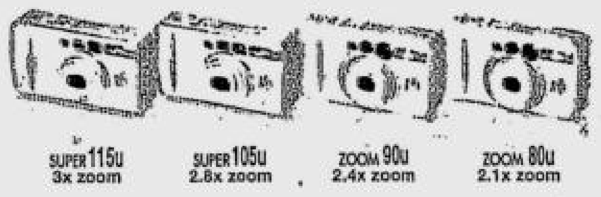
Lou Ferrigno played the green monster to Bill Bixby's Bruce Banner in the popular '70s TV series. If you've seen the Ang Lee version, Ferrigno did a cameo as a police officer in the movie.

In the early '70s, he was a multi-titled "beauty king." (I have to admit, it's strange to be coining this term.) He was "crowned" Mr. Teen-age America in 1970, Mr. America in 1973, and Mr. Universe in 1972 and 1974.

The 6'5" muscleman won the role after he beat Arnold Schwarzenegger for the "Hulk" role, because Arnie, who is 6'2," was deemed too short for the part!







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Exciting car chase sets tone for 'T3'

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

NICK Stahl, whose previous performance in "In the Bedroom" was much lauded, is no action man at heart. Nevertheless, in "T3," he manages to give his reluctant hero of a character a little dazed and confused depth.

More mature

His John Connor isn't as edgy as his predecessor's (Edward Furlong), but then again, Connor is no longer a bratty teen but an older, more mature man who has already been through "Terminator 2."

In the first "Terminator," we learn of a future post-nuclear war between man and machine which will eventually be won by humans, headed by future "last hope of humanity" John Connor. Our Terminator is the bad guy here, sent back in time to kill Connor's mother, Sarah (played by Linda Hamilton) before she can have a child.

He fails, of course, with the assistance of Kyle Reese, a man whom the future John Connor sends to help his mother. And he not only saves her life, but he also manages to impregnate her with John Connor before he dies. It's a tad confusing, but it certainly gave audiences in 1984 more to ruminate about.

Able assistance

In "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" a teenage John (Edward Furlong) and his redoubtable mother Sarah prevent the nuclear war — Judgment Day — from happening, this time with the able assistance of a reprogrammed T-101. With the war cancelled, it more or less tied everything up — in the coolest way — and we all thought that was that.

"Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines," however, disabuses us of that notion. Here, we see Connor, who's been living a life "off the grid" (so he would be machine-untraceable), have his worst nightmare come true. Judgment Day wasn't prevented—it was only postponed.

And so begins another rush to put a stop to it, but this time — in one of the flattest endings we've seen lately — it's just a little too late.

"T3," though not as thought-provoking as its predecessors, isn't a complete no-brainer, either. Its plot may not be as well crafted, but it does have a definite storyline and tries to distract our attention from this shortcoming with lots of action scenes and funny, almost campy, lines from deadpan one-liner king Schwarzenegger.

There is hardly any chemistry between Claire Danes' and Stahl's characters, however.

Predecessors

Kristianna Loken, who plays the gorgeously ice-cold TX, isn't quite as scary as her predecessor, the T-1000 (very effectively played by Robert Patrick in "T2").

Much of the movie's punch comes not from the actors or the plot, but from skillfully crafted sequences that any action director would be proud of.

Director Jonathan Mostow didn't rely too much on computer technology to make his scenes as explosive as he could. He also injects more tension by way of lingering shots that allow our imagination to work.

The film's is well-paced, and the human element hasn't been forgotten— though it tends to take a backseat when the T-X and the T-101 are smashing urinals over each other's heads!

In the end, however, we can safely say that though "T3" may be a sequel, it is, unlike its unfortunate brethren, not as disappointing. There's actually a good chance of your enjoying yourself.

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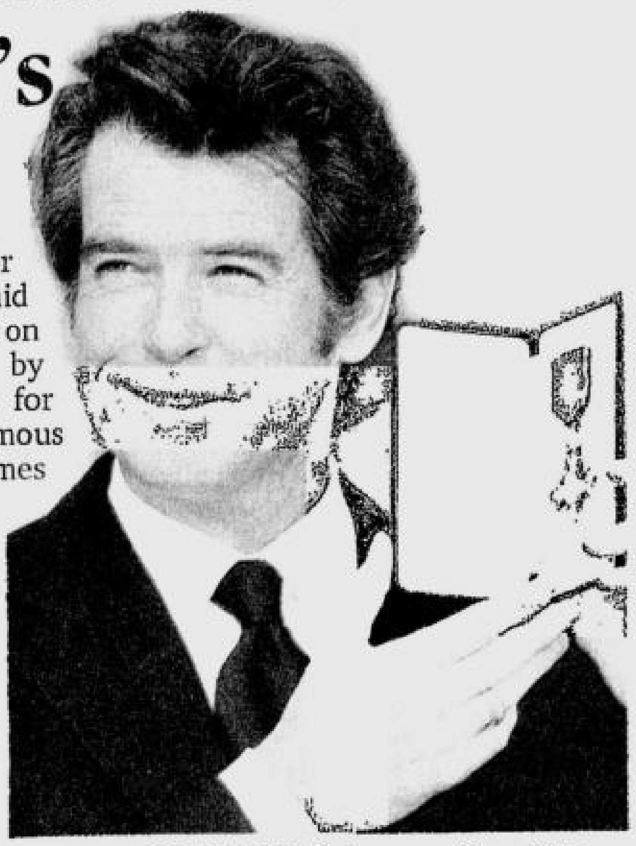
'James Bond' humbled by Queen's honor



BROSNAN. Made honorary officer of the Order of the British Empire.

DUBLIN—Irish actor Pierce Brosnan said he was bowled over on Saturday to be honored by Britain's Queen Elizabeth for portraying her most famous and unflappable spy, James Bond.

Not a British subject

"I'm very humbled by an honor like this," the 50-year-old Brosnan said as he was made an honorary officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)—"honorary" because he is not a British subject.

On screen, Brosnan has saved the world from annihilation several times over, but he said receiving the honor in his native Ireland, with his mother, stepfather, three children and granddaughter by his side, had touched him deeply.

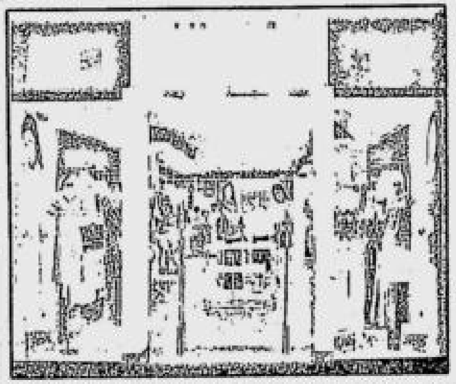
"I'm completely bowled over by it, really," he said after the medal was presented by Britain's ambassador to Ireland, Stewart Eldon.

Debonair

Brosnan has made his fortune portraying the debonair and indestructible 007 in the most recent four of the 20 Bond films.

He declined to be drawn on who he saw succeeding him in a role that virtually guarantees an actor will become one of the 10 sexiest men alive.

"I have no idea who's going to play the next Bond, but I'm sure he's waiting in the wings there, unknown but ready." As for how many more Bond films he would do, he ruled out going for the lucky record of seven set by Roger Moore. *Reuters*



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9 A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic
Various Artists
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10 Bigotilyo
Parokya Ni Edgar
11 Meteor Garden II
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12 Hotel Paper
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13 Daylight
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Ogie Alcasid
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keyword: *magpakailan*
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Nina
16 Perhaps Perhaps Perhaps
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17 Meteor Rain
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Sexbomb Girls
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Fresh approach to old favorites

By Noelani Torre

PRODUCER David Foster, who acquainted us with singing sensation Josh Groban (and who has also produced such big-leaguers as Whitney Houston, Celine Dion and Barbra Streisand), has unearthed yet another golden-voiced twentysomething, this time in his home country, Canada.

Self-titled album

Under his auspices and that of Paul Anka (another crooner), the 25-year-old Michael Bublé (pronounced "Boo-blay") has recently released a self-titled album, "Michael Bublé" (143 Records/Reprise), that we're sure you've seen gracing the displays of your music shops.

Bublé, who hails from Vancouver, Canada, isn't only tops in the voice department, he got his fair share of good looks as well. (And we suppose the producers are also banking on that as it is his closely shot face on the album cover.) He looks, as a matter of fact, as though he should be in a boy band. One glance at the track listing of his debut album, however, will change your mind.

With songs like "Fever," "Summer Wind," and "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" he may be pop, but what he reminds us of is not Justin Timberlake, but the man, 'Ol' Blue Eyes' himself.

Swinging era

He's not a Frank Sinatra wannabe, however, just a guy who happens to prefer the songs of that swinging era. So you'll find that everything in this album is a cover, and though there may be those who think this makes Bublé very unoriginal indeed, we think that he was quite brave to try and put his own spin to such well-loved classics, like Peggy Lee's "Fever" and Van Morrison's "Moondance."

Bublé started his singing career working in hotel lounges and weddings, and it was in one of the latter events that he got his big break. It was the wedding of the daughter of Canada's former Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, and Foster just happened to be there while Bublé was doing his thing on stage. One week after that, the 25-year-old found himself in Los Angeles, about to cut his first record.

"Honest to God, I never thought I'd get here," he said in a recent interview. "I just can't believe it's happening." Bublé, who first started singing the classics as a favor to his grandfather, eventually developed a love for them, which explains why his album is the way it is.

Foster, who certainly knows how to market his talents, made much of his newest one—landing him a spot on "The Today Show," and making sure that everyone knew how to pronounce Bublé's name right. (Television, not radio, has been responsible for his recent fame.) Bublé also has a song or two in the soundtrack of the romantic '60s style comedy, "Down With Love."

BUBLÉ. Started singing the classics as a favor to his grandfather.

Fine voice

All in all, we'd call this debut album very promising. The songs may not be original, but he certainly sings them his way, and they do showcase a fine voice.

Having David Foster at the helm ensured the technical smoothness of the album, and though this slickness gives it a more homogeneous feel, the record was rescued from being too sedate by some equally slick, but more interesting arrangements.

All of the 13 tracks in this album are classics, but Bublé manages to infuse these old favorites with his own fresh approach that makes us appreciate them even more.

Among our favorites would be the album-opener, "Fever," a jazzy Peggy Lee original Bublé interprets with warm familiarity, and the Brothers Gibb's "How Can You Mend a Broken Heart," that sounds much like the original to pacify purists, and yet different enough to make it interesting.

He also includes a homage to his executive producer Paul Anka, with the latter's "Put Your Head On My Shoulder" done in a slow, dreamy style.

Bublé's reinterpretation of Freddie Mercury's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" makes for fun listening (it is almost cute), and "The Way You Look Tonight" has a sound that is fresh and original.

So, if you're a lover of the classics, this album will give you a fresh take on your old loves, and if you're not, well, "Michael Bublé" will give you an introduction that will have you asking for more.

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Steak experience to remember

From page E4

fried zucchini and ranch dressing. That evening, we had Chinese food in the San Bruno area.

Usually, after a steak meal, I lose interest for a few months before I start craving for steak again. But my food-tripper of a sister, Mariles, told me that one of the assistant chefs of The House of Prime Rib had bolted the establishment and put up a place called Broadway Prime on Broadway St., in the city of San Bruno.

So, we dashed to the new place. The steak's taste was exactly the same except that here, there were a few other choices. They also served garlic mashed potatoes and dessert. I had a nicely toasted pecan pie. Superb! But I preferred my first House of Prime Rib dining experience.

Happy eating!

Find out
what's news
on July 27.

Olivia is destined for singing stardom

By Andy P. Bais

OLIVIA. Belted out Whitney Houston's "One Moment in Time" at age two.

UPCOMING singer Olivia's destiny as an entertainer was evident at a very tender age. At age two, while other toddlers were still learning to speak with confidence, she was already belting out Whitney Houston's "One Moment In Time." Never mind if she had the lyrics all mixed up, what mattered to her doting mom was her being pitch-perfect.

Precocious

There was no way but up for the precocious Olivia. At four, she held a "concert" in the family living room with a captive audience that included her playmates, neighbors and household members, who had to buy "tickets" at P2 apiece!

And what was that concert like? It consisted of song and dance numbers, with her older brother as her dancing partner—and her *yaya* as the show's technical assistant!

In school, she was the perennial guest singer in school activities. She joined singing contests, and won most of them.

Professional

Olivia's chance to really turn professional came when she was 15, as a vocalist in a band. "But it was short-lived, I had to give it up because it affected my studies. *Natatapos kasi ang* set *namin* at 5 a.m.," she relates.

Eventually, she went solo, and did the rounds of hotels and piano bars. She is currently one of the crowd drawers at JOG 999, a resto-bar on Shaw blvd., Mandaluyong owned by singer-comedian Jograd de la Torre. She sings every Tuesday.

Jograd has only praises for his prize talent: "*Bihira ang* talent *na katulad ni* Olivia—she doesn't just sing, she feels the right emotion."

Olivia's vocal prowess comes courtesy of her very musical family. Her mom, the still lovely Brenda Tirona, was the other half of the Tirona Sisters, the toast of hotels and music lounges in the '70s.

Charmer

The 17-year-old charmer is at her best when she sings ballads, but she can easily shift to other types of songs like R & B and jazz.

She considers her mom her number one fan and critic. "*Pati mga galaw ko, pinupuna niya.* She gives me tips on how to communicate with the audience," she shares.

When asked how she assesses herself as a performer, the fair-skinned beauty allows, "*Mas* natural *at* confident *na ako ngayon. Hindi na trabaho ang trato ko sa ginagawa ko, kasi nag* e-enjoy *ako*, " she reveals.

Improvement

Olivia's marked improvement as a performer has prompted Jograd and his longtime buddy, award-winning composer Vehnee Saturno, to produce an album for their discovery. Vehnee has already composed songs specifically for Olivia.

When we teased Olivia that she has what it takes to be a sexy actress, she just laughed at our comment. She said, "*Ay naku*, I'd rather concentrate on my singing and pursue my dream of performing at the Music Museum and Araneta Coliseum!"

Olivia also performs at Chorus Line, Makati (Monday); Astoria Plaza Hotel lobby, Shaw blvd. (Wednesday); Sulu Hotel (Thursday) and Celebrity Sports Plaza (Friday).

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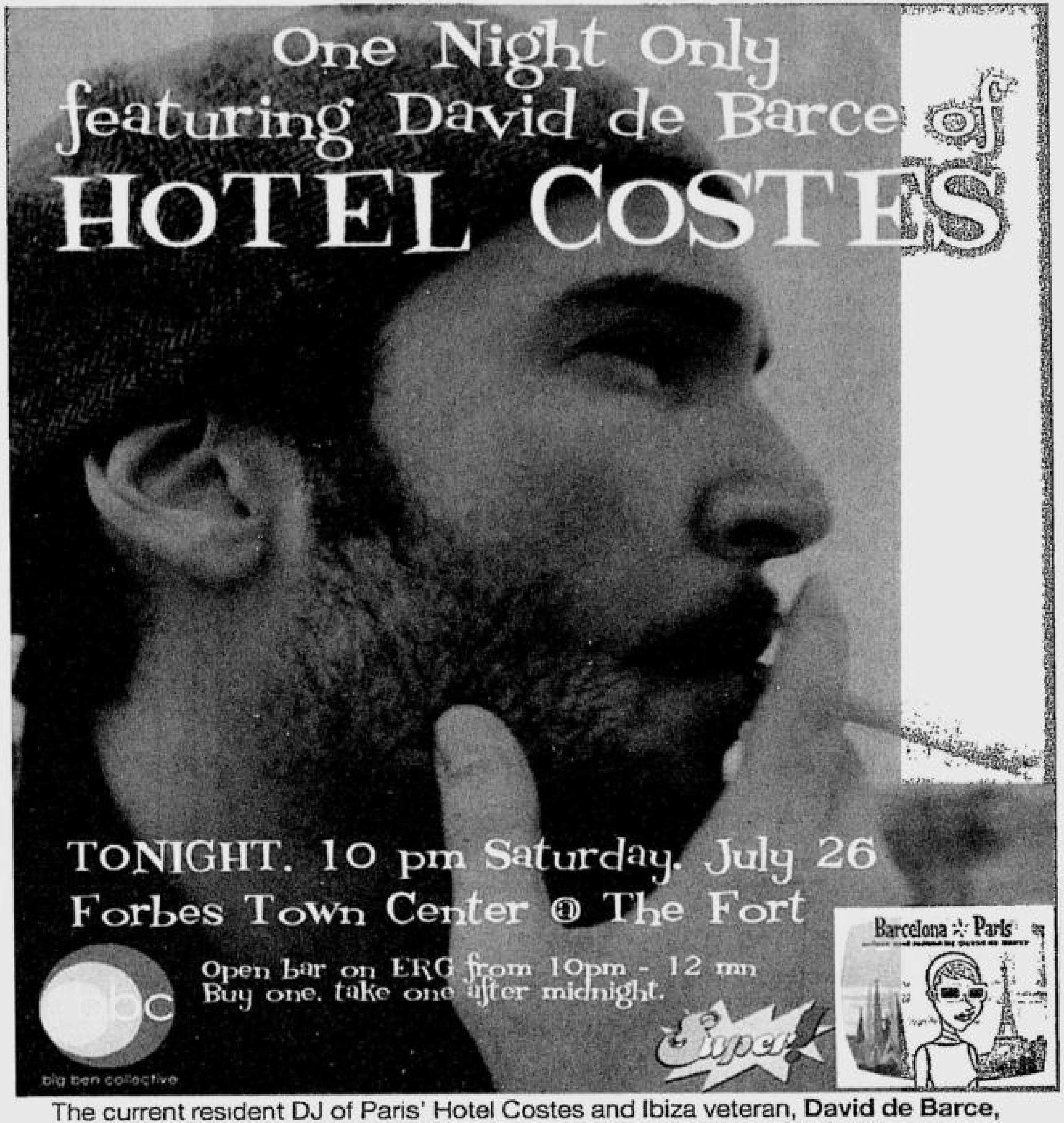

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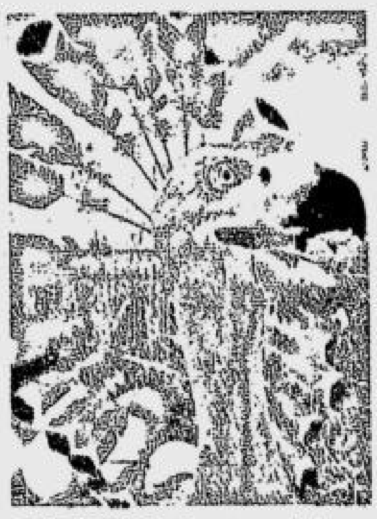
Instinct for survival and procreation underscored

By Nestor U. Torre



CARAKILLER. Creature of the future.

WE recently viewed an installment of the Discovery Channel's "The Future Is Wild" series, and had a fun time gawking at the weird imagined creatures that some scientists believe will populate our planet five million years from now.

After viewing the program, however, we wondered what that "scientifically fantasticating" experience was all about. How would it affect our view of the world so very far away in the future, and inform our ideas about life in general?

Closer analysis

At first sight, the show doesn't have much to do with the here and now. But closer analysis reveals that yesterday, today and tomorrow, the same major natural forces, pressures and motivations impel how all creatures, humans included, behave, evolve and survive, no matter what the historical epoch might be.

In other words, the more the creatures on our planet change, the more they remain the same.

The common impulses we all share include: An instinct for survival, which compels all creatures to adapt to the life-threatening elements or events that come their way.

Corollary to this is the instinct to procreate, to assure the continuation of the species.

Next comes the basic instinct, puckishly but realistically expressed as "to eat or to be eaten." In other words, if you aren't a predator in some way, you may not survive.

Basic realities

Thus, conflict and violence appear to be basic realities of life, so strife will always be with us, despite the loftiness of our dreams of peace and harmony.

Another basic instinct is not really ours, but is part of the natural order itself: nothing stays the way it is, and creatures must improve to become more efficient survivors and procreators, or be overwhelmed by other species.

The series' imaginings are premised on the necessity and inevitability of evolution.

It's good to be reminded of the importance, inevitability and immutability of these basic instincts, because the realization can help us live better-informed lives—not five million years hence, but right now.

So, the "future creatures" that the series conjures up may not really walk, crawl on or fly over the earth in the very distant future, but they show in fascinating detail how and why the evolutionary process works, and that's the real value of watching this show.

Imagined creatures

Truth to tell, the series' imagined creatures aren't all that far-out and distantly removed from actuality, especially when we note that five million years are supposed to have passed before they shall have presented themselves as the beautifully bizarre products of evolution.

For instance, the future creature with a colorfully flared bib around its throat isn't really all that far-out, since it reminds us of the Komodo dragon lizard that is currently roaming the earth.

The show's imagined creatures also tend to favor saber teeth, which give them an edge in the biting and bone-breaking department. It's like, whenever the show's resource persons and "imagineering" experts were stumped for evolutionary concepts, somebody would automatically add a pair of saber teeth to make the future creature look more menacing!

In instances like this, the series' seams may be showing, but we're still glad that we caught one of its installments, because the basic lessons that the show teaches about life and nature are strikingly delineated.

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Lipa's beautiful gardens

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE HON. Fernando "Boy" Manguera, vice mayor of Lipa City, recently launched Colgate's "Kabarangay sa Dental Health" program in cooperation with Lipa City's local government and the Philippine Dental Association as part of Colgate's global mission to "to save the world from cavities" and create a "World of Smiles."

COLGATE'S MEDICAL MISSION. From left, Ricky L. Espinosa, Dr. Ethel Libay, Dr. Jess Tumaeng, Hon. Fernando Manguera, Dr. Arsenio C. Donesa, Jo Advincula, Dr. Ellen Villanueva, Dr. Bino Villanueva and Dr. Emma Vergara.

Rain

The rain fell hard, but it didn't dampen the spirits of over 300 children who came for their oral checkup, tooth extractions, Fluoride rinsing and toothbrush drill, attended by members of the Philippine Dental Association and its national president, Dr. Arsenio Donesa. Afterwards, each child brought home a bag of toothbrush and toothpaste, compliments of Colgate Phils.

Our group left before lunch and was shown the Amihan Botanical Gardens on Governor Leviste rd. at Barangay. Bulacnin, Lipa City (810-3676, or fax at 810-5614).

The place is an aggrupation of 33 specialty gardens that took Lamberto Ocampo Sr. (father of historian Ambeth Ocampo Jr.) and his charming wife Belen 10 years to put up.

Animal topiaries

The place boasts of having spice and vegetable gardens, children's playlot, Fragrant Hill, Ti plant, Fern Gully, collection of different bamboos, hibiscus garden, giant cacti, Noah's Ark with various animal topiaries, bonsai plants and reflecting pond with water plants and swordtail fish.

There are the majestic collections of palms, the perennial flowering section, heliconias, palostantos, the butterfly sanctuary, orchidarium, rose garden, variegated plants, and flowering trees.

We had lunch at the Farm at San Benito, a place where eating in balance with nature is the key to vibrant living, according to Mr. Rempe, the owner. The restaurant serves 85 percent raw and 15 percent cooked food. The German owner, a vegetarian, emphasized that raw food contains enzymes that are crucial catalysts for every bodily function.

Mr. Rempe said that adding more raw foods to your diet helps restore vitality, energy and "life force" to the entire body. It makes you feel younger. Raw food can help relieve symptoms of degenerative diseases like arthritis, allergies, diabetes and even cancer. For more information, log onto their website at www.thefarm.com.ph.

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Steak experience to remember

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA—I flew into San Francisco from Vancouver to attend my UP High School class' mini-reunion. There were two things on my mind: I was eager to enjoy the company of my former batchmates, and I was dreaming of the most delicious steak at the House of Prime Rib. This, to me, has to be one of the best steak experiences in my life. I hardly eat beef, but, when I do, it has to be superior in quality, and the best-tasting.

Reservation

That evening, my sister Mariles, her husband Henry, my nephew, Charsi, and I made a 6:30 reservation at the House of Prime Rib on Vanness st.

The restaurant, simple yet elegant, and seating about 500 guests, was jampacked. There was only one item on the menu—slowly baked roast prime rib of beef. I was told that the ribs, slowly roasted for hours, were cooked starting at 2 a.m. for the evening meals.

These slabs of heaven are roasted in carving carts, with about five whole slabs baked in various ways—well done, medium-well, medium, medium rare and rare.

Right beside this gigantic silver cart are three steaming containers with mashed potato, creamed spinach and *au jus*.

Biggest cut

Of course, I ordered the biggest cut, the King Henry VIII! This is an eight-inch-wide, two-inch-thick bone-in steak. I had mine medium. We were first served some hot crusty bread and salad, which I refused to touch. I wanted my first bite to be that steak.

As we all got our various cuts, I glanced over at my little nephew's slice and thought it was too big for him. I realized I was hungry and impatiently craved for my slice.

As soon as my steak was served, my first slice was from the tip of the prime rib, which has the most marbling. I closed my eyes—this had to be the most delicious steak I ever had. Superb! I loved the simplicity of the preparation and the unadulterated taste of the superior quality of that beef. I planned a healthy diet after that.

Gigantic

The plan didn't last long, however. The following day, I was at Carl's Jr. having the hamburger called "super star" with some

STEAK/E2

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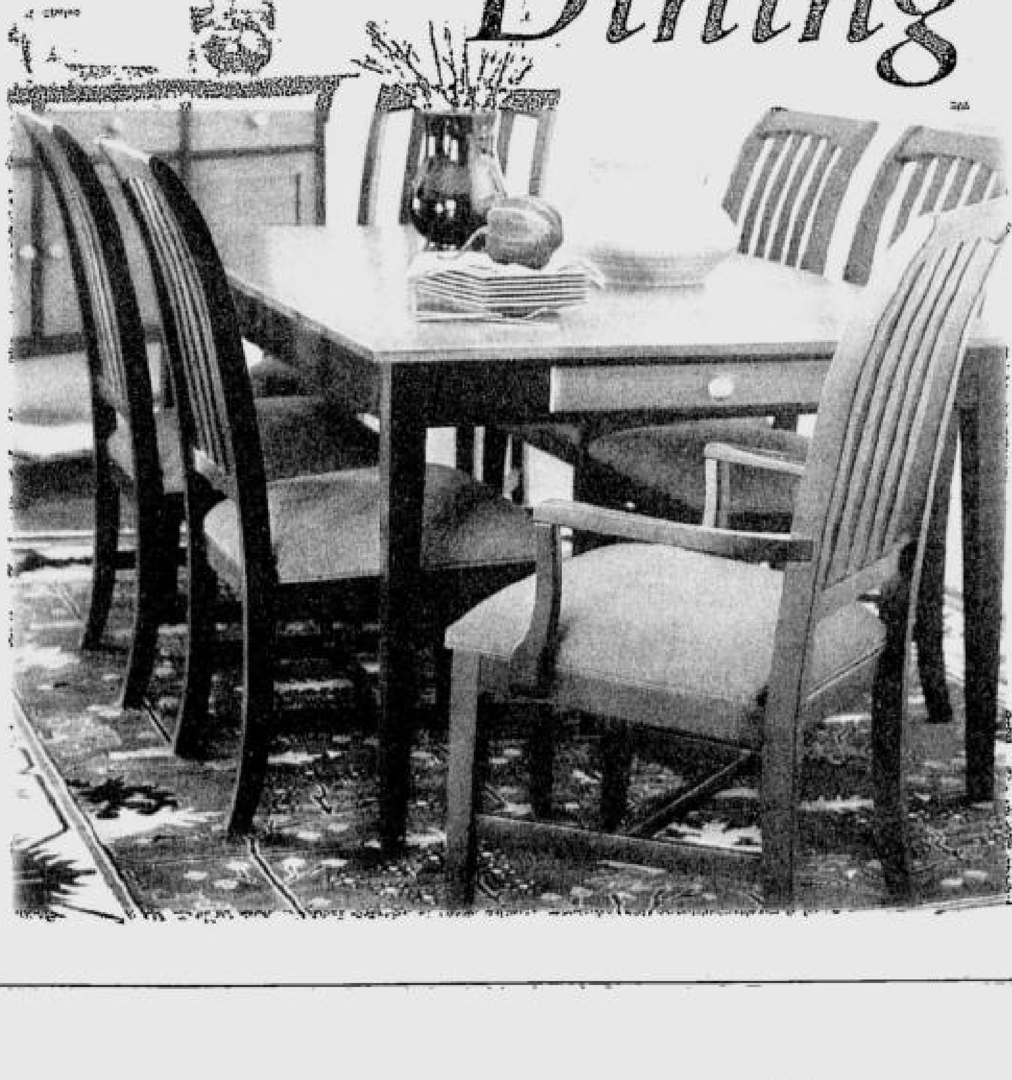

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SATURDAY *Special*

MAGDANGAL. One of teenage respondents' favorite television personalities.

How TV can serve young Filipino viewers better

By Nestor U. Torre

(Continuation)

A GOOD touchstone for acceptable television fare would be for the TV worker who's also a parent to ask himself, "Would I allow my children to watch the show I am putting on the TV screen?"

The difference between "those faceless children" and "my own children," if TV people are honest about answering this key question, can prompt a more responsible adjustment in their work.

Similarly revealing

The next Anak TV survey category, Favorite TV Shows, is similarly revealing. Viewers 6 to 12 years old cited two soaps as their top favorites, followed by a noontime variety show whose hosts were recently suspended for unbecoming on-camera conduct.

Other favorites include a fantasy drama for young viewers, an educational show, another noontime program, a math program for children and a teen *barkada* drama series.

The two educational shows are a positive sign, because their presence on the list indicates that child viewers are learning to appreciate, and even prefer, shows that go beyond diversion.

On the other hand, the predominance of soaps and noontime shows is a problem for reasons already cited.

Also note that there is no comedy or drama show specifically for 6 to 12-year-olds, another lack on local TV, which is focused too intently on teen and adult programming.

This is unfair to child viewers, because there are millions of children out there whom our TV people should regard as a major audience bloc that deserves programs suited to its specific needs and preferences.

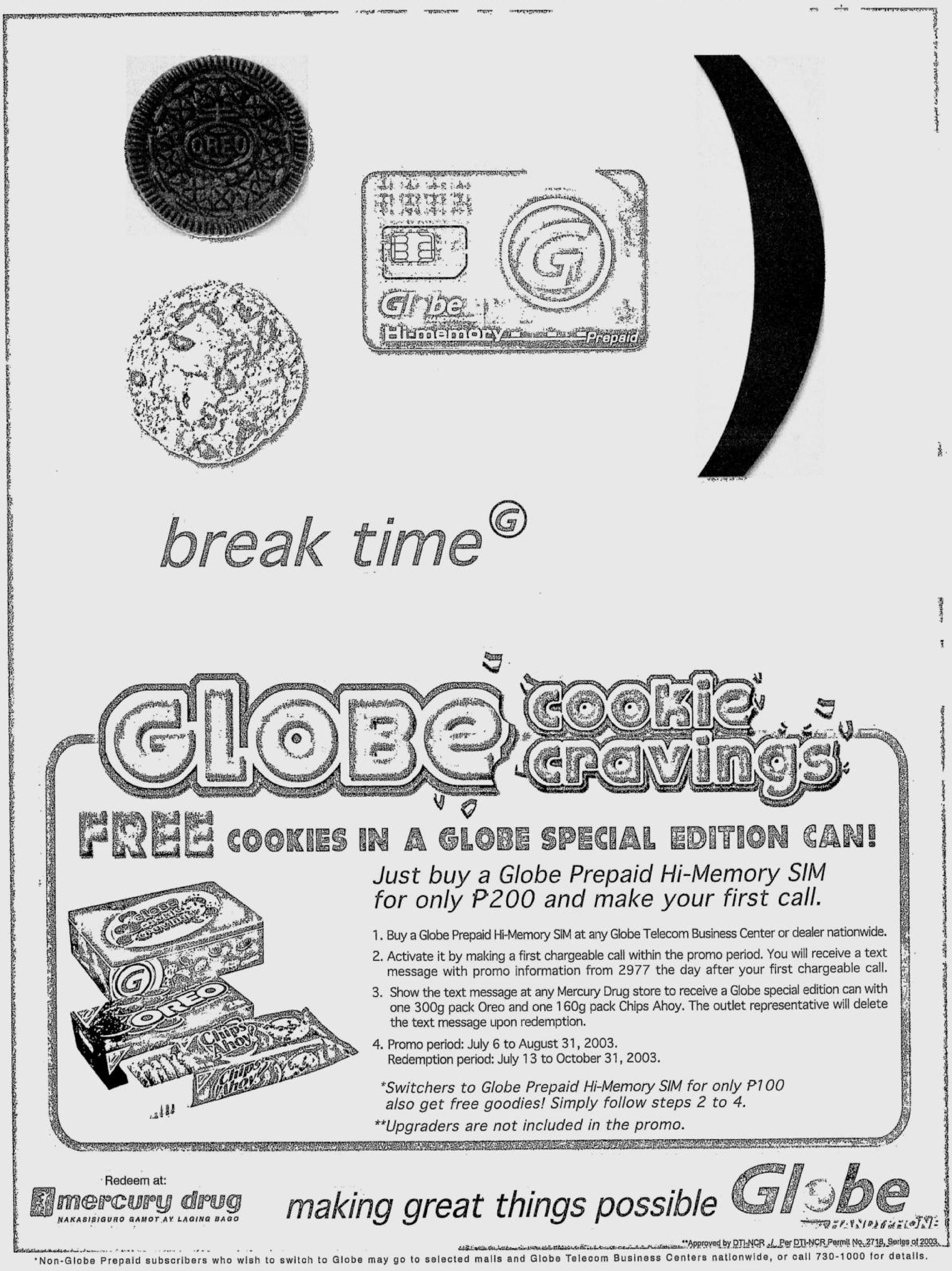
Format types

For the 13 to 18-year-olds, the program preferences were subdivided into format types—drama, comedy, musical variety, news and public affairs, and educational.

Expectedly, teenage viewers' favorite dramas were mostly soaps—an indication of how thoroughly soap operas have dominated much of local evening programming, to the exclusion of most other program types.

This isn't a healthy influence for teenagers because its gets them fixated on convoluted, cynical, escapist, violent, melodramatic and high-strung entertainment masquerading as an idealization of life. Much more variety in program types, please!

Teenagers' favorite comedy shows are a mix of sitcoms espousing good values; sitcoms stressing sex, insult and slapstick; and gag shows that dish out more of the same. This pervasive emphasis on nasty, leering jokes in the guise of humor encourages teen viewers to be more sassy and cynical than they should be. *(To be concluded)*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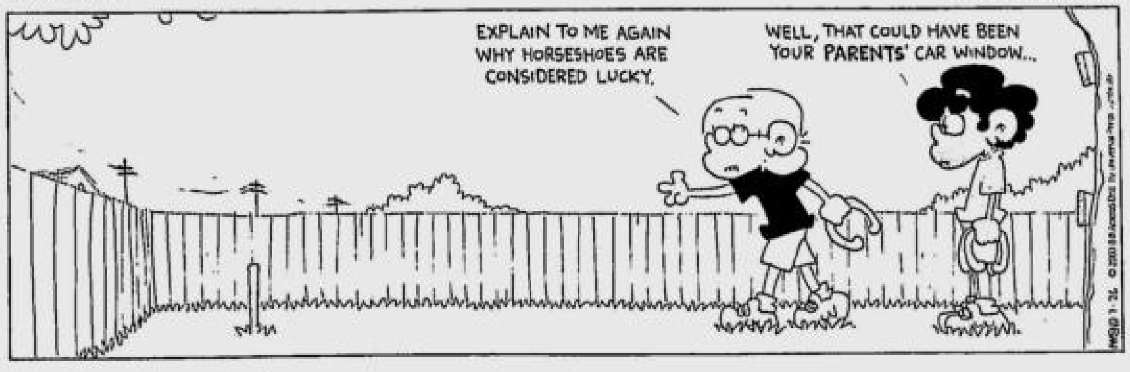
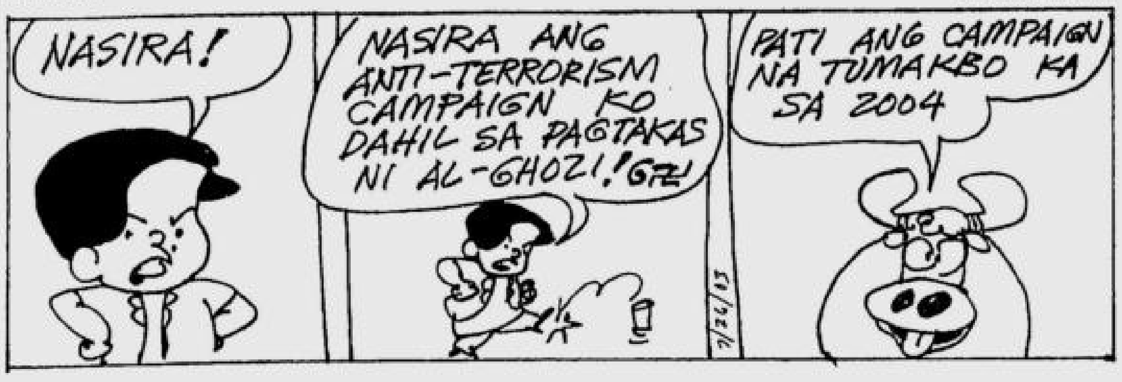
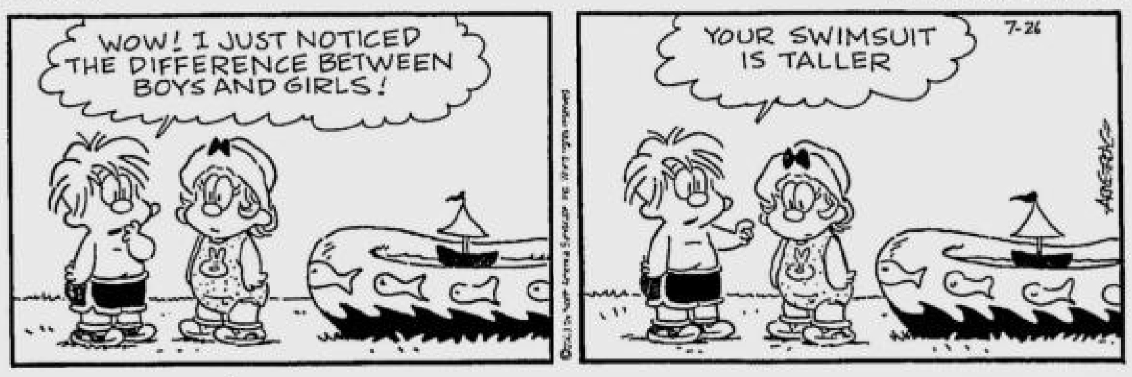
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


EXPLAIN TO ME AGAIN WHY HORSESHOES ARE CONSIDERED LUCKY.
WELL, THAT COULD HAVE BEEN YOUR PARENTS' CAR WINDOW...

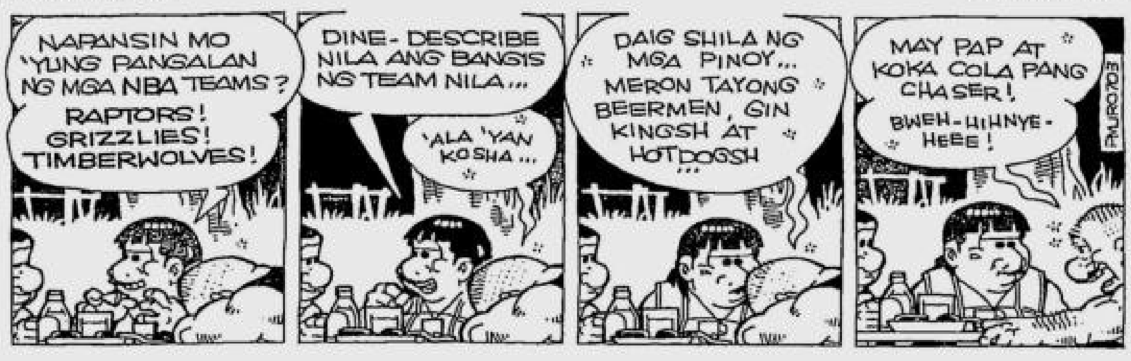
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


NASIRA!
NASIRA ANG ANTI-TERRORISM CAMPAIGN KO DAHIL SA PAGTAKAS NI AL-GHOZI!
PATI ANG CAMPAIGN NA TUMAKBO KA SA 2004
7/26/03

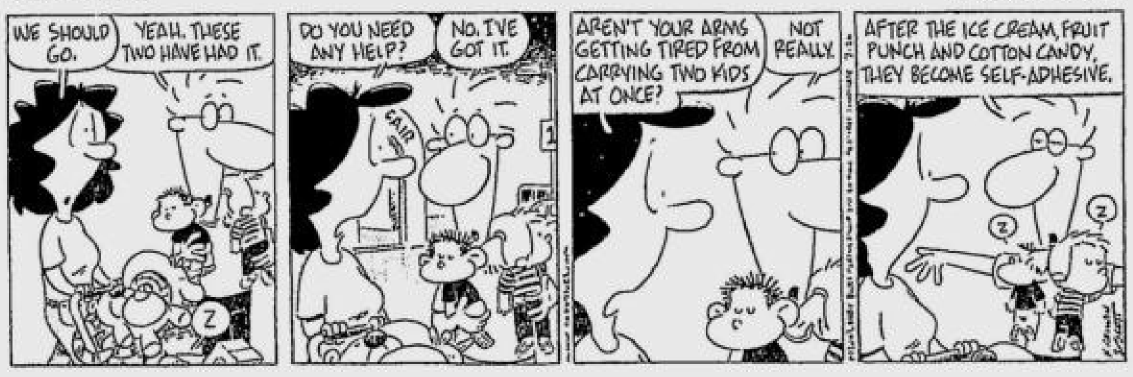
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WOW! I JUST NOTICED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BOYS AND GIRLS!
YOUR SWIMSUIT IS TALLER
7-26

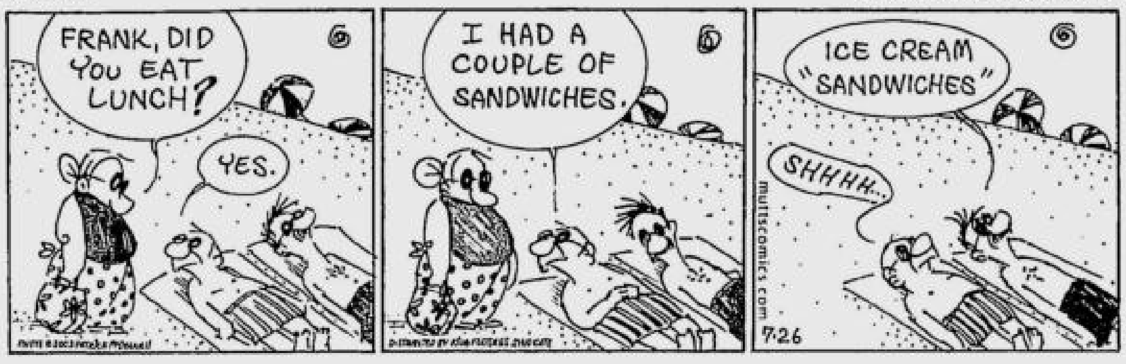
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAPANSIN MO 'YUNG PANGALAN NG MGA NBA TEAMS?
RAPTORS! GRIZZLIES! TIMBERWOLVES!
DINE-DESCRIBE NILA ANG BANGIS NG TEAM NILA...
'ALA 'YAN KOSHA...
DAIG SHILA NG MGA PINOY... MERON TAYONG BEERMEN, GIN KINGSH AT HOTDOGSH...
MAY PAP AT KOKA COLA PANG CHASER!
BWEH-HIHNYE-HEEE!
PMJR07103

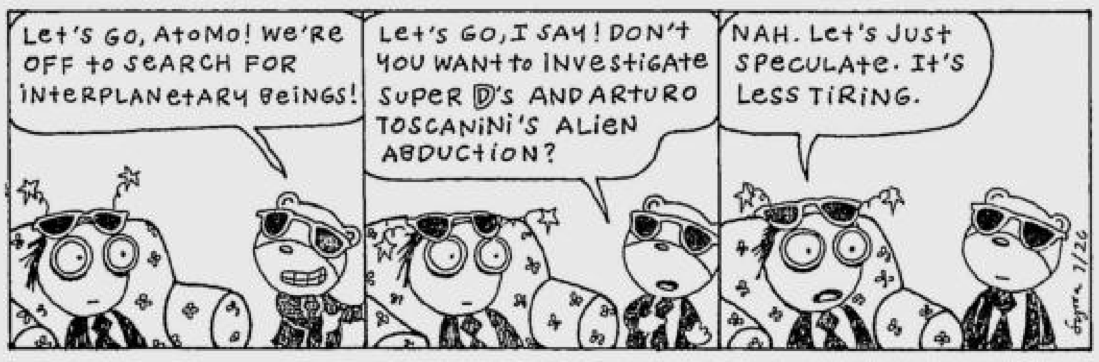
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WE SHOULD GO.
YEAH. THESE TWO HAVE HAD IT.
DO YOU NEED ANY HELP?
NO. I'VE GOT IT.
AREN'T YOUR ARMS GETTING TIRED FROM CARRYING TWO KIDS AT ONCE?
NOT REALLY.
AFTER THE ICE CREAM, FRUIT PUNCH AND COTTON CANDY, THEY BECOME SELF-ADHESIVE.

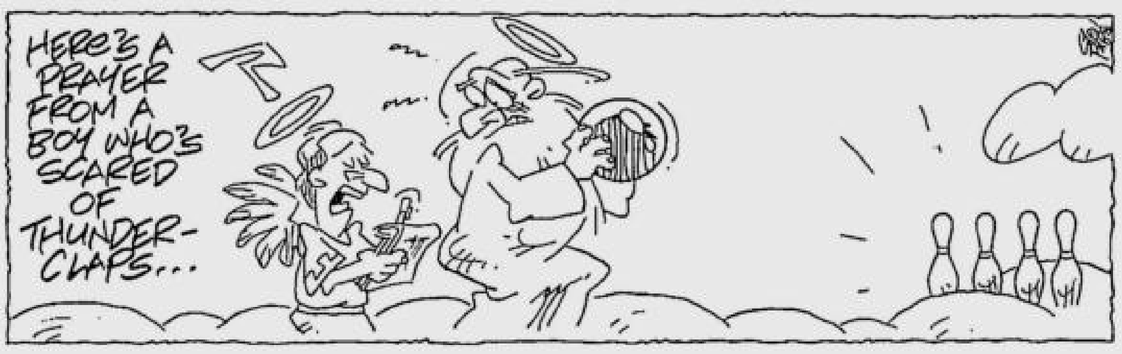
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FRANK, DID YOU EAT LUNCH?
YES.
I HAD A COUPLE OF SANDWICHES.
ICE CREAM "SANDWICHES"
SHHHH..
muttscomics.com
7-26

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Let's GO, AtoMo! We're OFF to SEARCH FOR iNtERPLANetARY BeiNGS!
Let's GO, I SAY! DON't YOU WANt to INVestiGAte SuPER D's AND ARtuRO TOSCANiNi'S ALieN ABDUCtiON?
NAH. Let's JUSt SPeCULAte. It's LeSS TiRiNG.
Lyra 7/26

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HERE'S A PRAYER FROM A BOY WHO'S SCARED OF THUNDER-CLAPS...

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are dynamic and sexy. You make a great impression on others. You're intelligent and know how to communicate well with people. Your views are very modern and often unorthodox. In many ways, you are ahead of your time. You often excel in your field of choice. The year ahead focuses on your closest relationships.
Birthdate of: Mick Jagger, musician; Kevin Spacey, actor; Kelly Clark, snowboarding gold medallist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have bright, startling ideas about something today. Unfortunately, someone might try to shoot them down. Don't let others rain on your parade.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might meet someone rather bizarre or unusual today. This character could introduce you to something different and even useful. Keep an open mind even if you are reluctant to do so.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You have a very brief window of opportunity today in which to earn money in an unusual way. It might involve technology or have something to do with science or aviation.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Others are surprised at your views today, especially about religion and politics. Does this really matter? You are certainly entitled to your own opinion, even if you stand alone.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): A surprise gift or favor might come your way today. Do not hesitate—accept it. It won't come your way again. On top of this, others will be offended if you refuse.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Conversations with a partner or close friend could take an unusual turn today. Even if you are shocked, try to understand where others might be coming from. It takes all kinds to make a world.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You might initially resist a surprise suggestion from your boss. However, if you think about it more thoroughly, there could be some merit to it, after all.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. [illegible]): You might surprise yourself today by feeling attracted to someone who is completely different from you. This can be quite harmless. Just enjoy your private little moment of intrigue.

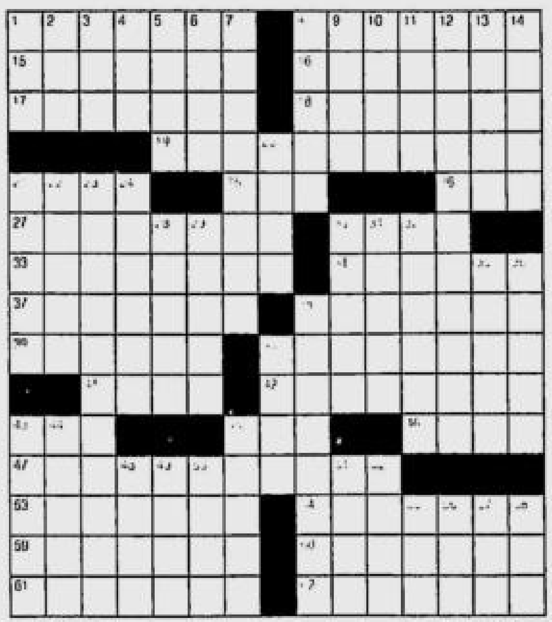
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It pleases you to discover a new approach to sharing the responsibility for someone or something. Now things look much easier. What a relief!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You'll find it very easy to get others to agree with you today. Unfortunately, someone could change his or her mind later this evening. It's no big deal.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have ideas about how to make reforms or improvements where you work. Even if you feel shy suggesting them, be bold enough to do it. You are probably right.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): New love is quite promising now for you. Alternatively, existing relationships can become sweeter. Either way, you win!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY
7/26/03

ACROSS
1 Pivots
8 Business concerns
15 Balcony railing
16 Jack Webb's crime series
17 Operatic soprano Patti
18 Illinois city
19 PC jargon
21 Drop heavily
25 Whelp
26 Original
27 Shower, of a sort
30 Big top
33 Always
34 Pascal's first name
37 Slayer of Medusa
38 Leave no escape
39 Closing seams
40 "Rebel Without a Cause" co-star
41 Corned-beef dish
42 On the whole
43 That ship
45 "A Nightmare on __ Street"
46 Raines of old films
47 Old-time shirt accessories
53 Gold imitations
54 Taper off
59 Roadwork situation
60 Wildly angry
61 Formalists
62 Enough foolish talk!

DOWN
1 Rejuvenation center
2 Roll of currency
3 Intense anger
4 Kilmer of "The Doors"
5 Sweeping saga
6 Late-night Jay
7 Notary publics, at times
8 Make sense
9 Worry
10 Stand up to
11 Lab medium
12 On purpose
13 Make less garbage, perhaps
14 Scatter about
20 Immaculate
21 Makes ready, briefly
22 Flood protection
23 Engulfed
24 Cyrus II's empire
28 Grace closings
29 Irish lake
30 Short-term investment, for short
31 Oily resin
32 "Burger's Daughter" novelist Gordimer
35 Nifty!
36 First name of a plane
38 Of the Mishnah and Gemara
40 Shaker filler
43 Ice cream unit
44 Lena or Marilyn
45 Serpentine trails
48 "Damn Yankees" vamp
49 Fed's Greenspan
50 Pip-squeak
51 Pebbles Flintstone's pet
52 Sewing line
55 "__ You Being Served?"
56 Pallid
57 Gone by
58 Evergreen tree

Friday's Puzzle Solved

S	C	U	B	A	■	■	P	U	M	A	■	G	E	E
O	R	S	O	N	B	E	A	N	S	B	E	A	N	S
D	O	N	N	A	R	E	E	D	S	R	E	E	D	S
S	W	A	Y	■	E	R	A	■	■	■	G	L	U	E
■	■	■	■	I	L	O	N	A	■	A	S	S	E	S
A	P	S	O	S	■	■	■	N	A	P	■	■	■	■
P	E	A	R	L	B	U	C	K	S	B	U	C	K	S
T	R	U	E	■	O	B	O	L	I	■	F	A	L	A
B	I	L	L	Y	R	O	S	E	S	R	O	S	E	S
■	■	■	■	E	N	A	■	■	■	A	S	H	E	S
R	E	B	U	T	■	T	W	E	R	P	■	■	■	■
A	L	O	T	■	■	■	O	R	O	■	S	H	I	P
T	I	G	E	R	W	O	O	D	S	W	O	O	D	S
S	O	U	P	Y	S	A	L	E	S	S	A	L	E	S
O	T	S	■	A	U	K	S	■	■	W	R	E	S	T

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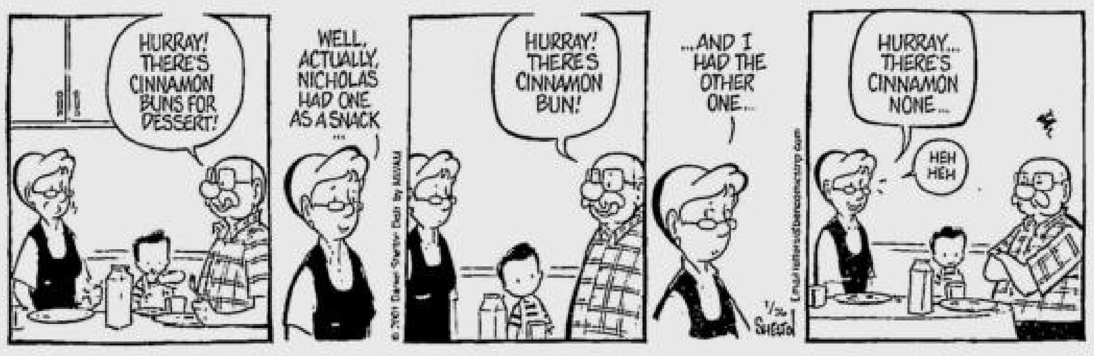
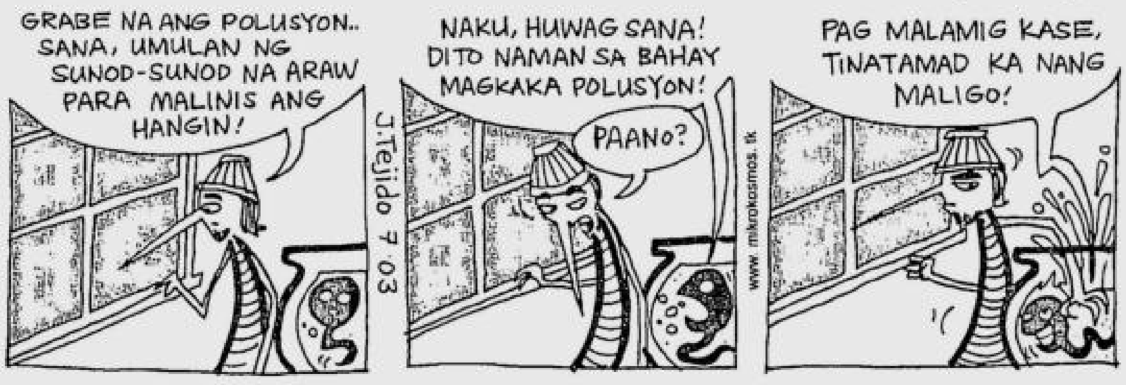
7/25/03

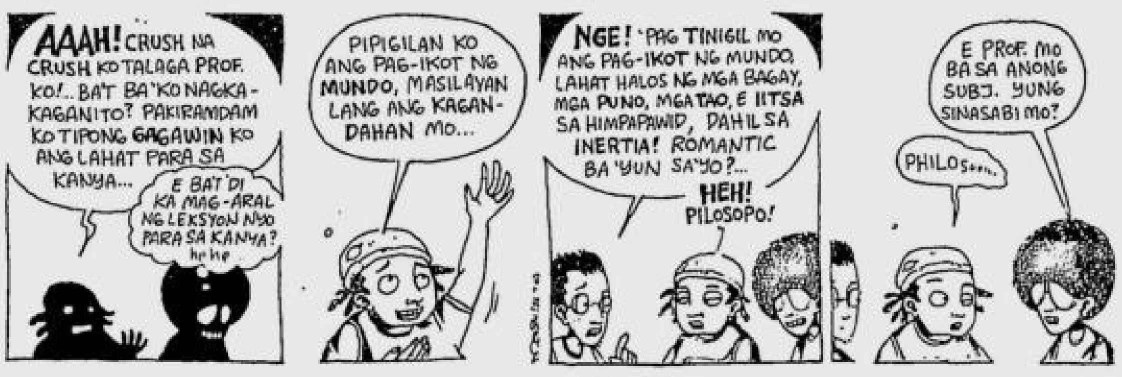
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HURRAY! THERE'S CINNAMON BUNS FOR DESSERT!
WELL, ACTUALLY, NICHOLAS HAD ONE AS A SNACK...
HURRAY! THERE'S CINNAMON BUN!
...AND I HAD THE OTHER ONE...
HURRAY... THERE'S CINNAMON NONE...
HEH HEH
7/26 SHELTON

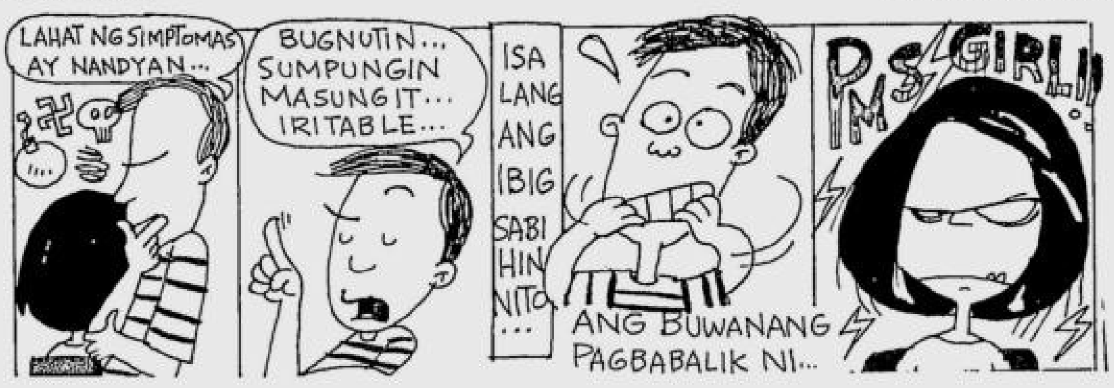
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


GRABE NA ANG POLUSYON.. SANA, UMULAN NG SUNOD-SUNOD NA ARAW PARA MALINIS ANG HANGIN!
J.Tejido 7 03
NAKU, HUWAG SANA! DITO NAMAN SA BAHAY MAGKAKA POLUSYON!
PAANO?
www.mikrokosmos.tk
PAG MALAMIG KASE, TINATAMAD KA NANG MALIGO!

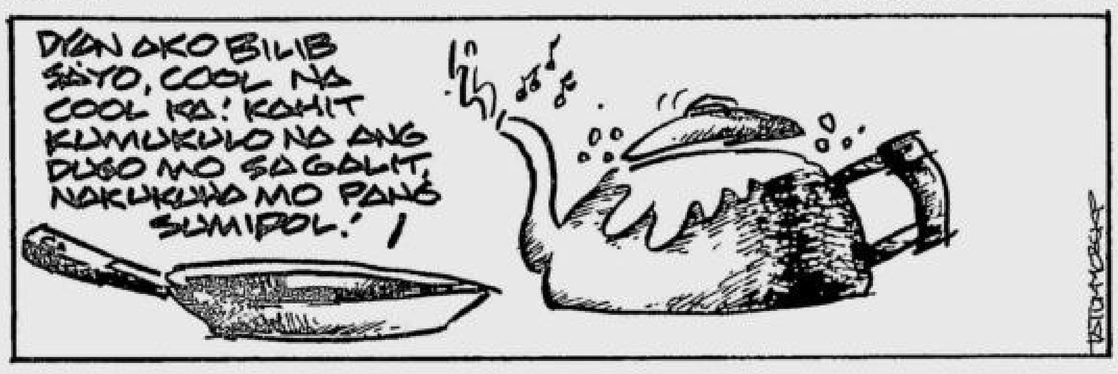
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


AAAH! CRUSH NA CRUSH KO TALAGA PROF. KO!.. BA'T BA'KO NAGKA-KAGANITO? PAKIRAMDAM KO TIPONG GAGAWIN KO ANG LAHAT PARA SA KANYA...
E BAT'DI KA MAG-ARAL NG LEKSYON NYO PARA SA KANYA? hehe
PIPIGILAN KO ANG PAG-IKOT NG MUNDO, MASILAYAN LANG ANG KAGANDAHAN MO...
NGE! 'PAG TINIGIL MO ANG PAG-IKOT NG MUNDO, LAHAT HALOS NG MGA BAGAY, MGA PUNO, MGA TAO, E IITSA SA HIMPAPAWID, DAHIL SA INERTIA! ROMANTIC BA 'YUN SA'YO?...
HEH! PILOSOPO!
E PROF. MO BA SA ANONG SUBJ. YUNG SINASABI MO?
PHILOS....

FURRY LOGIC BY SUZIE AND CALVIN


LAHAT NG SIMPTOMAS AY NANDYAN...
BUGNUTIN... SUMPUNGIN MASUNGIT... IRITABLE...
ISA LANG ANG IBIG SABIHIN NITO...
ANG BUWANANG PAGBABALIK NI...
PMS GIRL!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DYAN AKO BILIB SAYO, COOL NA COOL KA! KAHIT KUMUKULO NA ANG DUGO MO SAGALIT, NAKUKUHA MO PANG SUMIPOL!

Thanks, Kitchie

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

DEAR Clara,

I'd like to talk to you about a very special person. You know her—she's your *ninang*—but you don't know her beyond her generosity to you every Christmas and birthday, and whatever occasion she never forgets to make special for you.

She's Kitchie Benedicto-Paulino, my discoverer, mentor, boss and friend. She believes in me more than I do. She believed in me when no one did, and also when no one did anymore.

Radio booth

I remember, many years ago when my world was just within the four cramped walls of a radio booth, she was the only one who saw that I had what it took to be a TV talk show host.

"Inday, your show will be the barometer of stardom," she told me then. "Only when a star has already guested in your show can he or she claim to have arrived." Those words proved prophetic, and I went on to ride the crest of success, all because your Ninang Kitchie believed in me.

Then, when I lost everything, she was also the only one who saw that I still had what it took to go back on the tube. Months before my kidneys failed, she had already sought me out for a series of meetings to discuss concepts and formats for my television comeback via a talk show she wanted to produce for me.

Plans

"Through this show, we will reinvent you, Inday," she intoned. I didn't know what she was talking about, although I was polite enough to pretend I did. Nothing came out of our plans because I got sick. But when I recovered and GMA-7 met with me to talk about the possibility of my going back on the screen, I lost no time in seeking her help.

And that was how "Inday, Heart to Heart" came to be. Without your Ninang Kitchie's KB Entertainment, the show would never have seen the light of day. And her words proved prophetic once more. Because the show did succeed in reinventing me, in defiance of that tired line about old dogs no longer able to learn new tricks.

I first met your Ninang Kitchie in the house of Doc Perez, when the idea for the "Superstar" show was only bubbling in her mind. At that time, I didn't know yet that she was the daughter of RSB (Amb. Roberto Benedicto), much less that she was a bigshot at RPN-9.

Fate drove us closer when Nora Aunor became the object of a fierce battle between Tower Productions and Sampaguita Pictures. Doc Perez instructed your Ninang Kitchie and me to personally take care of her—I was in charge of Guy in the daytime and your Ninang Kitchie at night.

Cord

Nora Aunor was the cord that first bound Kitchie and me together. We both wished only the best for her, but we ended up frustrated.

My first impression of your Ninang Kitchie was that she was butch. She cropped her hair short, she had this manly gait, and, God knows, she has more balls than a lot of men.

But, soon enough I got to see first-hand that she is all-woman. We played the field together and had a lot of fun with double dates.

One thing we have in common is the way we love—we are never content with just the carousel, ve prefer the roller coaster, which discombobulates not just our hearts but also our souls!

We give it our all, until there's nothing left to give. That's why when we fail, we fall with a big thud, and the pain is usually incalculable. But, we always manage to bounce back.

Our friendship deepened even more when your Ninang Kitchie became my boss at Broadcast City. It seemed then that the entire TV industry revolved around her. I saw how everybody deferred and kowtowed to her.

Later, of course, when fate frowned upon her and her family, there were people who didn't want to have anything to do with her. Such is life!

Your Ninang Kitchie is a good boss, Clara. At Broadcast City, she not only graced company activities, she participated in them—as choir member, on the bowling team, etc.

Plea for help

And she genuinely cares for people. I can't remember her turning down any plea for help, especially from those who have the least in life.

She's called "monster"—but that's actually a term of endearment, because her people know that she's tough on them because she wants them to be the best they can be.

My only regret is my having lost touched with her in time. And, to this day, I know that I haven't really thanked her for all the wonderful "gifts" she has given me.

It's a good thing that God allowed our paths to cross once more. With "Inday, Heart to Heart," she's again my mentor, boss and friend.

If only I could still have some quiet time with her, Clara—to just hold her hand and laugh with her, like the old times.

Oh, dearest Kitchie. You're an angel. Thanks for everything!

'Papa ng Bayan'

Piolo Pascual will be awarded the Natatanging Papa ng Bayan award tomorrow, Sunday, on GMA-7's "Inday, Heart to Heart." Please note that our telecast time has moved up to 10 a.m.

I'd like to express my personal thanks to the sponsors of the show—San Miguel Corp. (Coca Cola, Royal Tru Orange, Sprite, Lift and Viva Mineral Water), Samsung, Tender Bob's Steaks, Potion Planet, Home & Lifestyle, American Blues, Yamaha Clavinova, Celine and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

BENEDICTO. Genuinely cares for people.

Self-indulgent stars fall out of character on television

By Behn Cervantes

I AM used to seeing outtakes from US television sitcoms. I find them very amusing. At some point or other, a smart television director/scriptwriter thought it a good idea to show the human, erring side of stars on television.

Errors

Seeing recognized actors fluff lines, make mistakes and laugh at their errors was a pretty engaging experience for viewers—and cathartic for the actors, too.

Those errors in the outtakes brought seemingly unreachable stars down to solid earth. Imagine seeing a superstar being embarrassed about a silly mistake? What a gas to see him or her err. The audience could then play divine and forgive.

You also got to better appreciate the stressful conditions of those lengthy taping sessions, and the need for actors to let off steam. Laughing at each other is a good start.

Outtakes

Philippine entertainers are never to be left behind. They often shamelessly ape whatever American television performers do. Naturally, local television has started to show outtakes, too, allowing fans all over the archipelago to laugh at their favorite stars.

However, another blatant trait of Philippine entertainers is that they not only copy to death whatever they see, but they also tend to abuse what they ape. They can't leave a good thing alone, so the tendency is for them to distort the object of their admiration.

Recently, outtakes have become an "in" thing in Philippine sitcoms. There is a big difference, however. The "outtakes" are now part of the show, as self-indulgent performers laugh at themselves during the show proper.

They make jokes all over the episode, ad-lib lines that make sense only to themselves, drop out of character, and brazenly enjoy themselves at the audience's expense. Just what is going on?

A joke succeeds when the audience laughs at the joke or the jokesters. It is not funny at all when comedians laugh at their own jokes, thinking they are *kuwela* or "cute."

Amateur behavior

Are they professionals, or not? I am not necessarily referring to their talent, of course. I am merely reminding stars of their exorbitant talent fees! Do producers, scriptwriters and directors really think this amateur and unprofessional behavior acceptable for professional primetime television?

If those shows have scripts, shouldn't their presumably professional actors memorize their lines, work out the jokes as intended, and elicit the laughter inherent to the skit?

It has been the habit lately among most sitcoms and comedy shows for performers to ad-lib their hearts away, enjoy "in" jokes and laugh at themselves with complete abandon. I think this is terribly unprofessional.

It's also quite silly that these well-paid performers imagine they can do anything and get away with their pranks at the expense of script, direction and audience sensibilities.

Script

We imagine that there is a script because they credit someone for its creation. The script must have something going for it. The director must come to the taping with a point of view about the episode that is worthy of our time and interest.

Why then do performers just go their merry or gay way and do their thing? Is the script so bad? Is the director so sloppy that this nonsense is better than his vision?

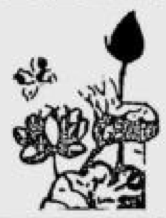
This kind of unprofessional behavior is especially blatant where Joey Marquez and company are concerned. It is irksome that he thinks he is cute when he makes silly faces and does his ad-libs at our expense, in his colorless, foghorn voice.

I think he has terrible taste, for how else can he can imagine that for him and Philip Salvador to pun on Kris (despite the meaning of the name to the macho tandem) is funny?

Keep your personal lives to yourselves, please! We really don't care one way or the other. And do your work as you should. Professionally, to start out with—*ha, tsong*?

Seeing beyond the cover

LOTUS POND



R. Valencia and S. Bismark

A 40-year-old woman says of her 55-year-old husband, "He has gained so much weight, I think it's disgusting. He has a double chin that I want him to get rid of through plastic surgery. I keep wondering if it's possible to stay married to a man you are not physically attracted to! I just can't relate to him anymore."

Battle

Another woman lovingly takes care of her husband who has had a serious battle with flesh-eating bacteria that has consumed half of his face. But she treats her husband with kindness, and he deeply appreciates her service and love.

In this world, we have a choice: To see reality or to live in an illusion—that is the question. The second choice means to accept the false messages propagated by a materialistic society—"I am the material body. This sexy, beautiful body is myself. The more beautiful my body is, the more lovable I become."

Don't ads teach us to avoid people with dandruff or stained teeth? Doesn't our materialistic society preach that you will be loved if you have long, silky hair that swings everytime you move your head?

People now tend to relate on a superficial level—body to body, rather than soul to soul. We get attracted to the cover rather than the content, the shell rather than the substance, the wrapper rather than the gift. We think the body is the self and this is the big illusion.

Living force

The reality is, the body is just a covering. The person is the spiritual being, the eternal soul, the living force inside the body. The soul is a natural spark of the Supreme Soul and inherently possesses, in minute quantity, the beauty of the Supreme.

We are children of God and, therefore, we are naturally attractive and lovable by nature. When we understand this, we can be happy even if we have a flat nose or chest. When we have the spiritual vision to see reality, we can truly relate and love.

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- Drop the entries in drop boxes located at MGC rice dealers or mail to BIGAS PANALO, BIYAHE PAPREMYO c/o BC Concepts 2/F Don William Bldg., Javier cor. Santillan Sts, Makati City.
- All employees of RMJR Grains Center, its advertising agency its merchants dealers and the security and manpower agencies including relatives up to second degree of sanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promo

Minor Raffle Draw/s
- A total of two (2) winners and their dealers will win in each minor raffle draws
- The minor raffle draws will be held under the supervision of a DTI rep. at RMJR Grains Promo Office, 2/F Don William Bldg. Javier cor Santillan Sts., Makati City on the following dates:

DRAW DATE	TIME
May 30, 2003	2:00PM to 3:00PM
July 25, 2003	2:00PM to 3:00PM
September 26, 2003	2:00PM to 3:00PM
November 28, 2003	2:00PM to 3:00PM

- Winners can only win once per draw. If a name is drawn more than once he/she gets the prize of higher value. However a person can win more than once during the whole duration of the promo.
- Non-winning entries per draw are not qualified to join the succeeding draws but will be qualified to join the grand raffle draw.

Grand Draw
- A total of one hundred twenty seven (127) winners and their dealers will win in the grand draw.
- The grand draw will be held under the supervision of a DTI rep. on December 20, 2003 at RMJR Grains Promo Office, 2/F Don WilliamBldg., Javier cor Santillan Sts., Makati City.
- The deadline for submission of entries for the grand draw will be at 7:00 PM of December 12, 2003.
- Winners can win only once on the grand draw. Names drawn more than once will automatically win the prize with the higher value.

Prizes
- For the minor raffle draws, the following vacation packages will be given away:

Minor Raffle Draw - May 30, 2003	
One (1) Cebu & One (1) Puerto Galera	P5,000 for dealers
Minor Raffle Draw – July 25, 2003	
One (1) Bohol & One (1) Banaue	P5,000 for dealers
Minor Raffle Draw – September 26, 2003	
One (1) Boracay & One (1) Ilocos Norte	P5,000 for dealers
Minor Raffle Draw – November 28, 2003	
One (1) Palawan & One (1) Davao	P5,000 for dealers

- For the grand draw, the following vacation packages will be given away:

Major Prizes

Grand Prize Winner Trip to Tokyo Disneyland w/ P500,000 Pocket Money OR P500,000 in Cash	Dealer P100,000 cash
1st Prize Winner Trip to Thailand w/ P50,000 Pocket Money OR P50,000 in Cash	Dealer P25,000 cash

Minor Prizes

	Winner/Dealer	
Mandarin Travel Bag	25	25
Mandarin Luggage	25	25
BF 800 Cannon Camera	25	25
9QT Coleman Cooler	25	25
MGC Sports Jacket	25	25

- All prizes are tax free.
- All trips are valid for use up to six (6) months from date of issue.
- Winners will shoulder and facilitate all documents necessary for international travel.
- All winners will shoulder travel tax and insurance as well as transportation/travel expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
- *Major* prizes in the grand raffle draw are convertible to cash but not transferable.
- All minor raffle prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
- All raffle prizes are non-replaceable with other items.

Claiming of Raffle Prizes
- All raffle draw winners may claim their prizes at RMJR Grains Promo Office, BC Concepts, Inc., 2/F Don William Bldg., Javier cor Santillan Sts. Makati City.
- Winners should bring two (2) valid ID's (passport, driver's license, SSS) letter of notice and raffle stub
- Prizes that are unclaimed after 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of RMJR Grains Center with prior approval of DTI-NCR.
- The equivalent prize for the dealer of an entry drawn without its name and address will be likewise forfeited in favor of RMJR Grains Center.

See posters for complete details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1476, Series of 2003

Sun Stars

At the Philsports Arena (formerly ULTRA)

Dina Bonnevie
Paolo Montalban
TJ Manotoc

Regine Tolentino
Nina

Gary V.
Regine Velasquez

Verni Varga
Dulce

Kuh Ledesma

Jimmy Bondoc
Paolo Santos

Kyla
Karylle

Ruffa Mae Quinto
Ara Mina

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Hotlegs

Be there on July 27, 2003 at 7:30pm as Sun Cellular rises.

Just present your Sun Cellular unit at any of The Sun Shops and get free tickets to see some of the biggest names in the music scene today! See you there!

Catch the 2-hour special telecast on GMA 7 [illegible], 2003 9:30pm

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SATURDAY Super

Contributing Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Bringing COSTES Home

By Kara Tolentino

DJ David de Barce plays cool tempo lounge–steady, feel-good, sophisticated–music for Manila clubbers on July 26

"IT'S da shit!" That's what Milla Jovovich had to say when she first heard DJ Stephane Pompougnac playing his music at the celebrity haven bar Hotel Costes in Paris.

And indeed it is, as anyone who's listened to any of his five compilations will readily agree.

I don't claim to be any sort of music expert. I'm just your regular Manila partygoer who hangs out in a club or bar simply because my friends also happen to be there. Call it herd mentality, but that's how things seem to work over here.

Just over a year ago, my dear friend introduced me to the magic of Stephane's music. I've been hooked ever since.

Musically clueless me would have thought "house music" was for playing at home, "chill" had to do with the weather, and "lounge" was a glorified restroom. It's a good thing I date a DJ who has the patience to educate me about these things.

So, on a recent trip to Europe, I was determined to see Stephane for myself. From my home base Switzerland, I scheduled a trip to Paris and braced myself for the adventure. But I was pleasantly surprised on a night out with friends in Zurich, to find out that Stephane himself was playing at one of the more chic clubs downtown!

Talk about synchronicity. It was an opportunity anyone would be crazy to pass up!

Luckily, the friend I was with wasn't just anybody; it was Robert Jan Meyer (a.k.a. Minus 8 of Compost Records)—a prominent Swiss DJ and producer whose track, Starlight, was included in Stephane's latest compilation. We made straight for the DJ's booth, and next thing I knew, I was shaking hands, then sipping champagne, with the man himself!

Finding my man

Fast forward to a week later. It's my third night in Paris, and I decide it's time to visit my new friend in his hometown. Finding the place was a bit tricky, though. I drive past twice—all these Rues start to look the same after a while—before I nail it.

Walking into Hotel Costes, however, was like walking into one of Stephane's CDs. It's very beautiful, elegant and oh-so-French. Chin up, I ask the *tres chic* receptionist who the DJ for the night was. She chirps, "David. There, right behind you."

I turn around and meet the most charming man ever. With the cutest smile, he pulls me by the hand and hurries me to the DJ's booth. "Give me one minute, I just need to change the record . . ."

Before I can reply, he is in a flurry of activity, and all I can do is look on in amusement. This is surreal. He says, "Welcome to my office. This is where Stephane and I work, although he is the superstar (jokingly, of course). Oh, and here, I will give you my compilation." He whips out this CD and the cover art immediately grabs my attention. Beautifully illustrated, it's titled "Barcelona Paris," with his name on it: David de Barce.

"Wow," I tell myself. "All this and I haven't told him my name."

Then it dawns on me—Manila will absolutely love this guy! So, feeling suddenly brazen, I finally introduce myself and say, "Would you be willing to come and play in Manila?" Without an ounce of hesitation, he replies, "I'm your man!"

Just like that. I love him already.

I find myself a seat and order a ridiculously expensive Cosmopolitan (16 Euro, ouch! That's times 60 in pesos!). Between tracks, David comes over and chats with me. Other people in the bar approach him for autographs, and he obliges happily. What a nice guy—and I had no idea he was famous in Europe!

He tells me he's originally from Barcelona, and that has been gigging in Ibiza for years. He also tells me he plays cool tempo lounge music—in other words, nothing fast and hard, just steady, feel-good, sophisticated selections.

As the evening ends, I leave Hotel Costes floating on a cloud. I play his CD all through the ride home, and it becomes clear to me that he is a superstar in his own right, definitely living up to the Hotel Costes name.

Good vibes

Fast forward to July. Preparations are in full steam. BBC (Big Ben Collective—Manila's progressive-thinking music collaborative headed by MYX's Mike Constantino, guided by dance scene vet Edge Pamute), Globe GenText, Rustan's U and Essences, have teamed up to bring the Hotel Costes experience to Manila.

"One Night Only: Featuring David de Barce." Saturday, July 26, 10 p.m., at the Forbes Town Center at The Fort. Tickets are available at O Music and Odyssey Records. Open bar on Erg from 10 p.m. to midnight. Bar host Fidel will serve up ritzy drinks, while everyone dances (or lounges about) to the delectable music of Scrambled Edge, Latin Canteen, and of course, superstar for the night David de Barce.

It's going to be all about good music, good people and good vibes.

Check in and meet David.

onstage 2nyt

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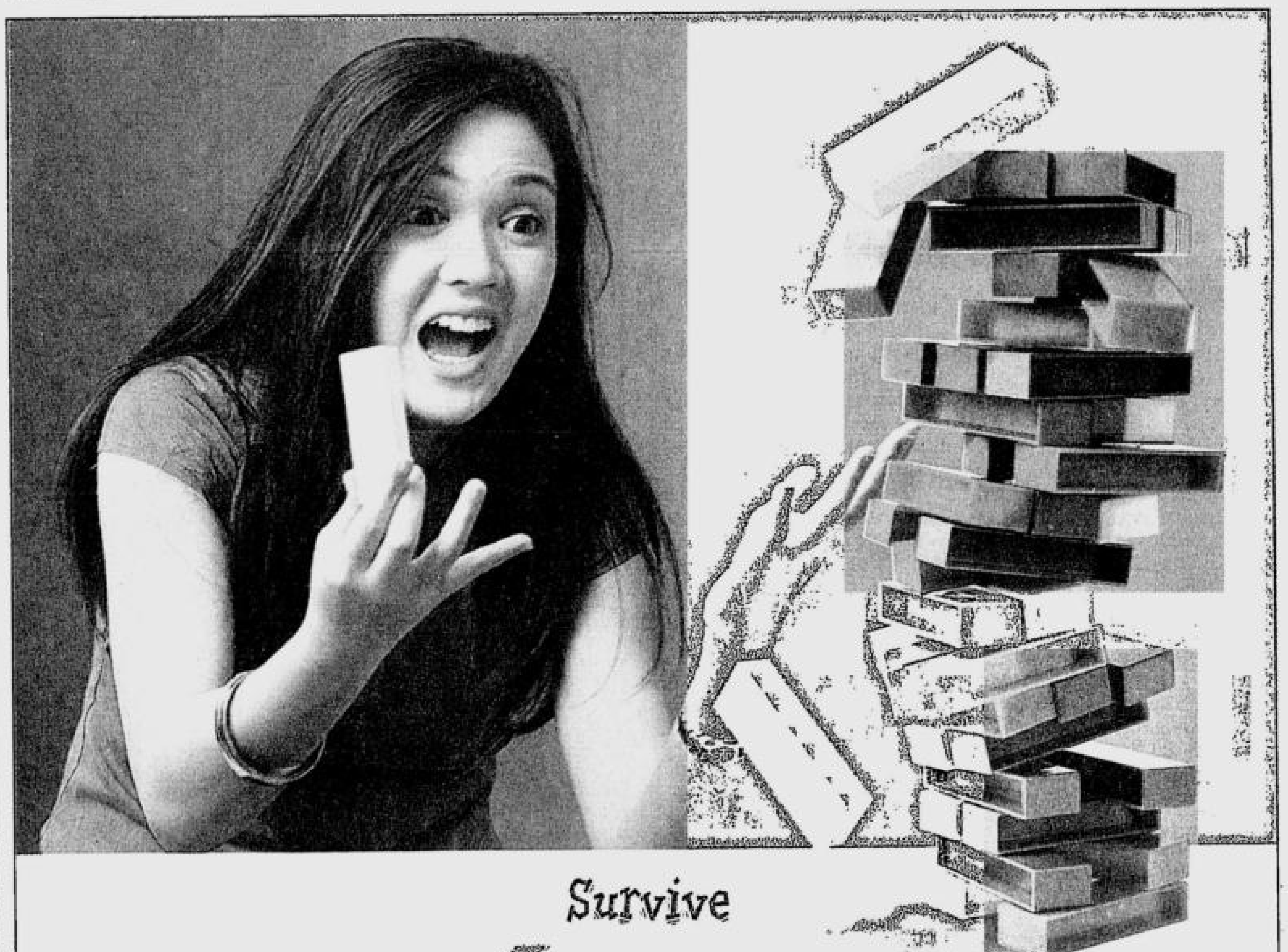

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BC SMART

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

A mouthful of Jon Hall @ L'eau Vive

TINA TASTES

by Tina Pamintuan

HEAVEN was not exactly on my side that stormy Monday evening.

It took me over two hours to get to Paco, Manila through crawling traffic on Quirino Avenue. But upon finding it, L'eau Vive was just the calm I needed.

Entering a house occupied by Carmelite sisters and a restaurant run by them is like chancing upon another state of mind. On some nights, angels—actually beneficiaries of the mission, poor and young, and some of them orphans—come by to sing to, and sing with, diners. L'eau Vive is a French restaurant founded by the Donum Dei family mission in St. Denis, Paris, started in Belgium, and now in five continents, including the Philippines in Asia.

Sister Anda graciously sat me down before a large statue of the Virgin Mary, surrounded by a pond and fresh plants and flowers. Pristine, perfect for a romantic dinner date. I was the only customer at the time though. It was late and my date was nowhere to be found.

Call it a blind date, as it might as well be. Jon Hall's manager had set us up for this. Jon and I had never met.

On my third glass of wonderful French table wine, so captivating and full-bodied and at P100 a glass, I was still alone. I wondered if it used to be water. Obviously, I was famished; I had to eat.

Besides, I seemed to be the last customer and they were taking the last orders. What should I ask for? Did Jon like meat? I mean, maybe he's vegetarian. Would he eat ox tongue with peppers, cream and spices?

The chicken liver pâté homemade by the nuns was by far the best I'd had in this country—creamy, rich, tangy but not too heavy that I could eat the whole thing like it was ice cream. The rabbit, which tasted like chicken, had this sweet prune sauce balanced with red wine, bacon flavors and shallots.

They also served round and fluffy potato puffs, best eaten when newly cooked, with a liquid mash of potato filling oozing out. For Jon I ordered massive prawns that I could swear had been injected with growth steroids. Over-sized and "butterflied," they were cooked precisely-soft, with a light pimiento cream and cognac sauce to top it off. Could've added more sauce if you ask me.

Too bad that. When Jon did arrive, he wanted only a Coke. Was I upset! Had I known he wouldn't eat, I could have finished the food.

A second chance

Tall, dark, handsome and sexy Bench model/actor Jon said he got on a bike and got soaking wet, so he had to go home, shower, change clothes and means of transportation to get to me. But we couldn't stay.

The sisters had to close shop; they had to get up at the crack of dawn to pray for people like us, and then cook and serve at the restaurant all day, teach catechism to street children, give lectures on spiritual formation to single parents, et cetera.

We said our goodbyes and I drove through unfamiliar streets in the strong rain, alone.

I was safely back to Makati in 10 minutes. Maybe the sisters had something to do with that.

Feeling great about the restaurant and the food, but not so great about Jon, the Catholic in me felt guilty—for judging Jon by the first non-encounter. Everybody deserves a second chance, even good looking men.

So the next night, in the midst of mad rain once again, he very considerately came to the Starbucks at my place and we had a little chat over a Frappuccino. His treat this time.

I cant believe you didn't eat last night. Did you not like the food? What do you like to eat, anyway?

I'm not a food person, I eat junk food. I don't eat fruits and vegetables. They make me wanna throw up. For me, eating is a waste of time. I do like Filipino food, my mom cooks great Filipino food. Also British food like shepherds pie and yorkshire pudding, 'coz my dad is British.

(Okaaay. What if I had ordered frogs legs in garlic butter, or the infamous escargot, snails cooked slowly in butter and parsley? He eats to live and I live to eat.)

What's the strangest thing you've ever eaten?

Probably be a fruit salad (laughs).

Our date would've been horrible.

My best friend almost made me eat goats nuts in a Greek restaurant somewhere near Tampa Bay, Florida. He said it was so good, but I knew better.

How many are you in the family?

We're four kids—three guys and a girl. My eldest brother passed away, he had heart attack.

How did that change the way you looked at life?

I'm pretty carefree, I take things as they come. My family isn't always together, wish it could be different. I wish we were closer, (but we're) scattered all over the world 'coz of work.

Have you ever gotten your heart broken?

Not really. I've just been with girls I shouldn't have been.

Are you more Pinoy, British? Are you conservative or liberal?

I'm very jealous, that's what actually bites me in the ass.

How jealous?

Always paranoid. A few girls have cheated on me

What's the stupidest thing you've done for a girl for love?

Following a girl around, but that was a long time ago.

Are you attracted to jealous girls yourself?

I don't like girls that act too cool. If they're jealous, it shows they care. It's nice when they ask where you've been. I really like that.

Perfect picture

Jon is probably not the best person to bring to L'eau Vive, or it's not the best place to bring Jon Hall. Life doesn't always turn out the way we want it.

L'eau Vive is a place you should visit with someone you love, or someone you hope will love you. There is a touch of magic in every dish. Marvel at the surroundings. Partake of the authentic menu, the magnificent sauces. If there is anything you can expect to get from there, it's a happiness that feeds the spirit. I'm anticipating my next visit—as soon as I find my next date.

What: L'eau Vive
Where: 1499 Paz M. Guazon Avenue (former Otis)
When: Everyday except Sunday, lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., dinner from 6 to 10:30 p.m. (last order at 9:30)
How much: P500/head
Contact: 5638558-9

(Questions comments & suggestions to: tina_tastes@yahoo.com)

BIG, BIG MAN. Jon Hall after dinner

Blow, Diet

Text and photos by Tim Yap

YES, Diether Ocampo blew birthday candles last week at Flute.

Not only that, he sang his heart out with the *boitday* song—with his own rock band named . . . Blow.

The shy Diet became explosive as the band dished out originals, ending with their album's carrier ballad, "Last Breath."

Later, friends from the fashion industry dropped by—Ben Chan, Jojo Liamzon, Juan Sarte and Ronnie Salvacion. Apparently, they all like rock music.

Okay, now "blow—nice and hard." That's the title of their album, you dirty-minded skank.

PIED PIP With Flute owner Christi Dieg

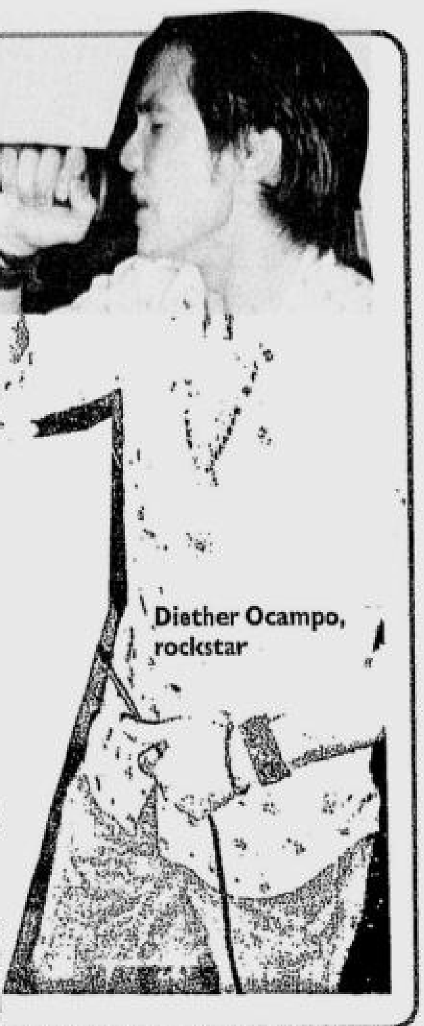
PERCUSSION BEATS. Jaspen Ong

RHYTHM GUITAR. Mike Ong

LEAD GUITARIST. Kessenth Cheng

BASS PLAYER. Karlo Mojica

DRUM ROLL PLEASE. Emil Buencamino



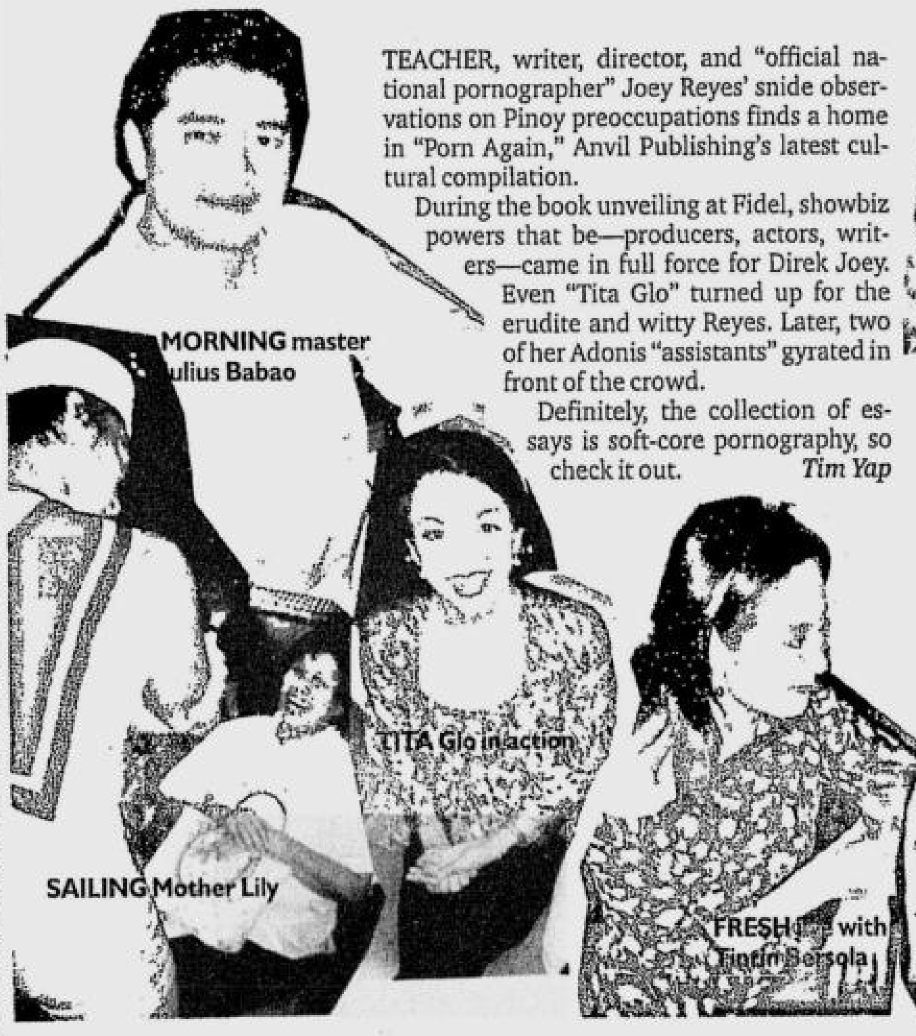
Diether Ocampo, rockstar

Hard-core launch action!

TEACHER, writer, director, and "official national pornographer" Joey Reyes' snide observations on Pinoy preoccupations finds a home in "Porn Again," Anvil Publishing's latest cultural compilation.

During the book unveiling at Fidel, showbiz powers that be—producers, actors, writers—came in full force for Direk Joey. Even "Tita Glo" turned up for the erudite and witty Reyes. Later, two of her Adonis "assistants" gyrated in front of the crowd.

Definitely, the collection of essays is soft-core pornography, so check it out. *Tim Yap*

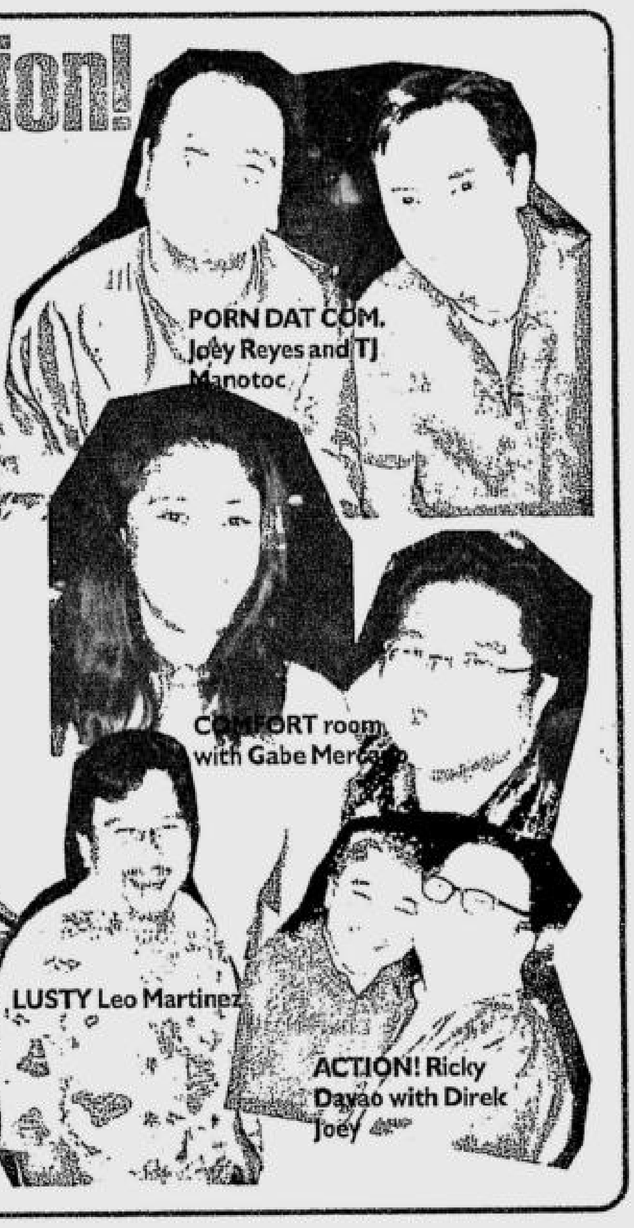


MORNING master ulius Babao

TITA Glo in action

SAILING Mother Lily

FRESH with Tintin Bersola



PORN DAT COM. Joey Reyes and TJ Manotoc

COMFORT room with Gabe Merc

LUSTY Leo Martinez

ACTION! Ricky Davao with Direk Joey

Sige na, indulge!

GREENBELT hotspot Nuvo just turned one!

To celebrate, nightlife master Louie Y gathered the metro's hottest owls for a fun feast of fab food and frolicsome fizz.

Cecille, his First Lady, dispensed the orgy of treats, as everyone threw air kisses at each other and sipped Nuvo cocktails. A second round followed at V, where the action went from hot to hotter.

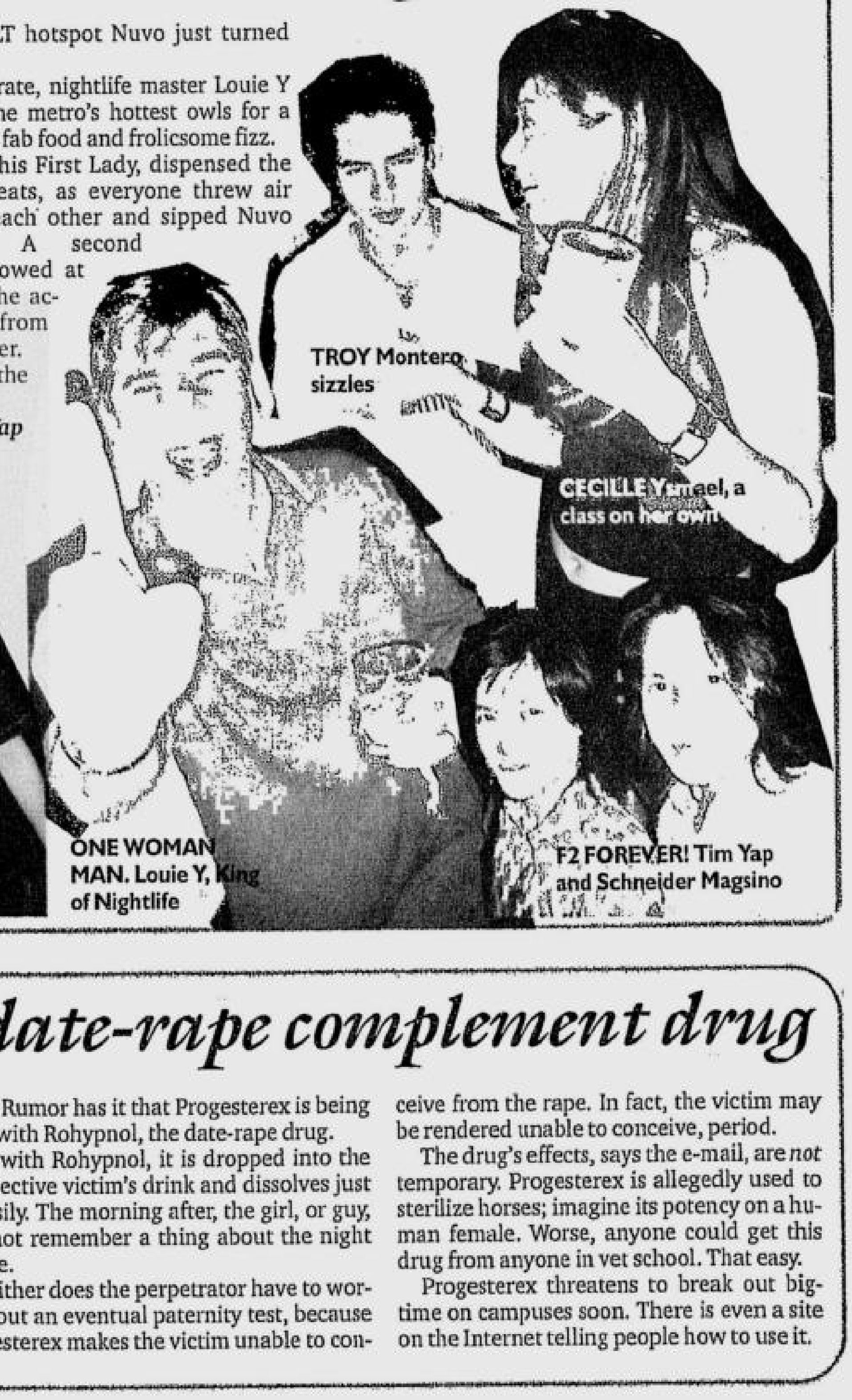
It's just the beginning.

Tim Yap

F YOU! Fai Lavarr

A-LISTER Arnold Martinez

COOSOME THREESOME. Raymond and Richard Gutierrez with Anne Curtis



TROY Montero sizzles

CECILLE Ysmael, a class on her own

ONE WOMAN MAN. Louie Y, King of Nightlife

F2 FOREVER! Tim Yap and Schneider Magsino

WARNING on date-rape complement drug

By Tim Yap

A "FORWARDED" e-mail currently circulating warns about this new drug out for less than a year called Progesterex—a sterilization pill that is now being used by "horn dogs" (you know who you are) at parties to rape *and* sterilize their victims.

Progesterex, according to the e-mail, is used by veterinarians to sterilize large animals. Rumor has it that Progesterex is being used with Rohypnol, the date-rape drug.

As with Rohypnol, it is dropped into the prospective victim's drink and dissolves just as easily. The morning after, the girl, or guy, will not remember a thing about the night before.

Neither does the perpetrator have to worry about an eventual paternity test, because Progesterex makes the victim unable to conceive from the rape. In fact, the victim may be rendered unable to conceive, period.

The drug's effects, says the e-mail, are *not* temporary. Progesterex is allegedly used to sterilize horses; imagine its potency on a human female. Worse, anyone could get this drug from anyone in vet school. That easy.

Progesterex threatens to break out bigtime on campuses soon. There is even a site on the Internet telling people how to use it.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Bingeing on bold films?

by
Pam Pastor

WATCHING skin flicks is like eating *chicharon*. Too much will leave you feeling sick. In the same way that pork rind loses its appeal after a while, one can take only so much breasts, butts, sweaty bodies, and profanity before the brain starts screaming for justice. "Umay" at its worst.

This is a warning. Think twice before going on a skin flick binge.

Title: "Xerex"
Director: Mel Chionglo
Stars: Aubrey Miles, Jon Hall, Jake Roxas, Kalani Ferreria

Based on the tabloid column, "Xerex Xaviera," this movie tells three different tales of three different women all played by Aubrey Miles. In "Kama," she is an innocent student who gets hung up on a school heartthrob after a sexual encounter with him. The guy, who is at best a chauvinistic pervert, leads her on and plays with her. But because endings have to be happy, he gets what he deserves in a scenario too similar to the last few scenes of the movie "Cruel Intentions."

The girl's grandmother, whose sexual appetite has not dissipated, dominates the plot. She reads dirty fairy tales to her granddaughter and the girls' friends, reminds them to bring condoms before going out and asks about her sexual escapades when she gets back in. Most likely, this character has been created for comic relief, but she is more disturbing than funny.

In "O," Aubrey is a bride-to-be who can't decide between her groom-to-be who is perfect in every way but is a dud in bed, and her lover who is a stud in bed but is a pig everywhere else. In "Butas," the most promising of the three stories, Aubrey is an elevator operator who lusts for one of her regular riders and spies on the sexually free woman in the room beside the one she rents. Her monologues are interesting and even thought-provoking, but the movie goes overboard with a sudden injection of crime and murder. Some shots are artistic, but not enough to save the film. For the performers, an acting workshop or 10 would have been nice.

(Rating: 1/5)
Title: Sex Drive
Director: Robert Quebral
Stars: Maui Taylor, Katya Santos and Wendell Ramos

A lot of people like comparing this movie to "Y Tu Mama Tambien," when in reality the only parallelisms are 1) the road trip, and 2) the gender-reversed threesome. Maui Taylor is Shiela, an innocent teenage model who is terrified of the thought of being penetrated sexually. Katya Santos is Mel, a photographer who decides to accompany Shiela in following her boyfriend, who they suspect has been cheating on her.

The road trip gets them stuck in one mishap after another and eventually leads them to an amnesia-stricken guy who they decide to take along with them. The story, which begins smoothly, goes off kilter with the introduction of a supposed serial killer. The chemistry between the two actresses is commendable. They acted naturally most of the time. Memorable scenes include Shiela being chased by a giant penis in a dream sequence, and the much talked-about threesome which wasn't bad at all.

(Rating: 2/5)
Title: Hibla
Director: Yam Laranas
Stars: Maui Taylor, Rica Peralejo, Antonio Aquitania, Ricky Davao

Maui Taylor and Rica Peralejo play Clara and Isabel, childhood friends separated when Clara's family moved to the city. Years later, she returns to the barrio with her father and rekindles her friendship with Isabel and Isabel's boyfriend Lando.

Clara, who flaunts her sexuality, has eyes for Lando, who is less than happy with Isabel's nonexistent desire to give up her virginity. Clara's father has eyes for Isabel who, despite her supposed modesty and pledge to be chaste, goes around constantly without a brassiere. Father and daughter act on their individual desires, and chaos ensues.

Despite a number of sex scenes including the kissing scene reminiscent of Sarah Michelle Gellar and Selma Blair's in "Cruel Intentions," this movie is more than just a skin flick. It speaks of social truths and realities unexplored by other films. No, seriously.

(Rating: 3/5)
Title: Two Timer
Director: Mel Chionglo
Stars: Ara Mina, Albert Martinez, Wendell Ramos

This is the story of a one-night stand that just refuses to end. Viveca (yeah, I think the choice of names is funny, too), played by Ara Mina, leads a double life. She is a businesswoman who lives a comfortable life with her successful psychiatrist husband Cholo (Albert Martinez), her son, and countless household helpers.

Unknown to her friends and family, she has an insatiable appetite for sex that she tries to quell with strangers in the strangest places. On an out-of-town trip with her family, she encounters Andre (Wendell Ramos), a club DJ who spends his days lying around and doing drugs with his girlfriend and friends. Viveca does the deed with him.

To her horror, he starts obsessing about her and follows her around, asking for more. Problems flare, and Viveca is caught in a web spun by her own infidelity.

Hilarious moment: Andre goes from being an obsessive drug-abusive stalker, to Mr. Sensitive when he claims to have fallen for Viveca. The movie is fairly interesting and flows smoothly. But it does make one wonder about Cholo's credibility as a mind plotter.

(Rating: 2/5)
Title: Lupe
Director: Elwood Perez

ALBERT MARTINEZ

Stars: Andrea del Rosario, Leandro Muñoz, Jordan Herrera

Andrea del Rosario plays Lupe, a seaman's wife pining for her husband. She has remained a devoted wife, constantly writing letters to her husband, but her whole world is thrown off-balance when Elmo, played by Jordan Herrera, enters the picture.

Lupe lets herself get sucked into infidelity, and later realizes that not everything is what it seems, that her husband has secrets, too, that she does not know.

The plot has potential, but the movie is a drag. There are too many characters and too many interspersed stories that one loses track of the main plot. And as if in a sudden desire to add depth, an AIDS angle is injected—without success. You basically just want it to end. Disturbing scene of the decade: a guy uses his mouth to show people how to put a condom on a banana. Go figure.

(Rating: 1/5)

hibla
pelikula ni Yam Laranas

	XEREX	LUPE	SEX DRIVE	TWO TIMER	HIBLA
PUMPING	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BREAST EXPOSURE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
BUTT EXPOSURE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
FULL FRONTAL	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
THREESOME	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
GIRL-TO-GIRL ACTION	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓
GUY-TO-GUY ACTION	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
INFIDELITY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FANTASY SCENES	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PROMISCUOUS FRIEND	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
SEA/ WATER SHOT	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
CRIME	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
REVENGE	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
DEATH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
MYSTERY	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗

A porn director's checklist for dummies

By Pam Pastor

aubrey miles
xerex

ALTHOUGH they may sometimes differ in plot, skin flicks are bound by similarities. Too many similarities.

It is almost as if creators of these daring movies keep a rule book hidden in the deepest, darkest, dingiest part of their offices, ready to be whipped out when they begin their next projects.

We have yet to befriend a rule book owner who would gladly turn it over, but here's what we think it would say:

1) Pumping, breast and butt exposures are musts. Skin flicks are made of these.

2) For extra shock value, choose from the following scenarios: full frontals, threesomes, girl-to-girl or guy-to-guy action. If you want to create controversy, throw in all of the above. It would be excellent if you could get the actors and actresses to talk on television about the controversial scenes, maybe raise a racket about how difficult the scenes were for them, and how much trouble they got into with their families and/or significant others because of those scenes. Make noise.

3) To convince the audience that the story really has a plot, weave a mystery, possibly one that involves revenge. Add a serial killer—this would surely shake things up, and preempt complaints that you are showing nothing but skin.

4) Fantasy scenes add eroticism without compromising the story. Create dream sequences or have the actor/actress stare at a lust object before starting the fantasy scene, then cut back to the actor/actress staring off into space.

5) Use shots of the sea, or any body of water, extensively. Or just bring the actors as close to nature as possible, to heighten the movie's animal appeal.

6) Make sure the contrast between the virginal and the promiscuous is consistently stark. If the lead character is virginal, make sure she has a promiscuous friend. If the lead character is promiscuous, make sure she has a virginal friend.

7) Someone has to die in the movie. Deaths always give a perception of depth.

8) Added points if the movie title is naughty and suggestive. Examples: "Laman," "Patikim ng Pinya."

---

bomba ka, 'day!

SWAK!

by Lex

Or things about Filipino males that Osang and Maui definitely know

ON the walls of some of Manila's most exclusive golf clubs and many of Tawi-Tawi's seediest beer houses hang copies of the same Tanduay calendar featuring bold stars of the moment.

The Great Divide between the social classes doesn't seem all that great when you hear "barkada" conversations over bottles/cans/mugs of San Miguel. The talk invariably evolves into intense discussions like: "Dude, that Maui Taylor is soooo hot!" or "*Katahum-tahum guid sa iya!*"

The lust shines through.

Who are these women? And is the rabid attention showered upon them by more than half of the Filipino male population reflective of deeper cultural issues?

Opposite Icons

Two stars from different generations best illustrate the contrast between the two most prominent stereotypes of the local bold movie genre.

Rosanna Roces' nickname says it all: "Osang." Doesn't it sound like she could eat men for breakfast? Her trashy talk, aggressive demeanor, and fleshy, tattooed physique appeal to men out to find a dominatrix. She never hid the fact that she became a star of Manila's strip joint circuit in order to get past the obstacles that came with being abandoned at birth.

Osang's persona attracts the Pinoy male who plays the macho role with the boys then goes home to mom, tail between his legs. It's always amusing to meet "under d' saya" men who transform from pillars of power to whimpering puppies at the sight of their wives or mothers.

On the other hand, Maui Taylor, reigning queen of bold stars, comes from the extreme opposite background. Born with the proverbial silver spoon in her mouth, Maui was schooled in the exclusive San Agustin High School in Dasmariñas Village. With the face of a girl barely out of grade school, Maui Taylor stirs the side of men's psyche that they would never admit exists.

More than her controversial chest, however, what intrigues me is why a seemingly traditional *colegiala*, decided to make a living traipsing across the silver screen in her birthday suit.

Show biz response: "*Kailangan ko po kasing maghubad dahil importante po talaga ang* nudity *sa story na ito.*"

Honest answer: "My career was going nowhere, and I was offered a talent fee several times bigger than my net worth. How difficult can that be?"

Men who end up with the Maui stereotype are those who like being somebody's "papa." Going out with younger girls generally isn't for men looking for intellectual matches. A woman who challenges his opinions and initiates debates is much too intimidating for many Pinoy males who would rather have girls they can control.

Art Imitating Life

Stereotypes among local bold stars reveal corresponding traits common to Filipino men. They prefer relationships in which they can either dominate, or be dominated by, their partners—hardly ever the kind founded on equality and compromise, while the man maintains a tough-guy persona.

Maybe this is why Pinoy men cheat so much, because they rarely get to develop their dream relationships. Our society is so bound by unspoken rules of what is and what isn't proper.

Honor, reputation, and maintaining the right facade are key. As long as these requirements are met, most women will let "boys be boys," justifying it to themselves by saying, "Pabayaan mo, lalake lang iyan" as if men are mindless dogs destined to forever pee on posts and hump every bitch in sight.

(For comments e-mail: swak_by_lex@yahoo.com)

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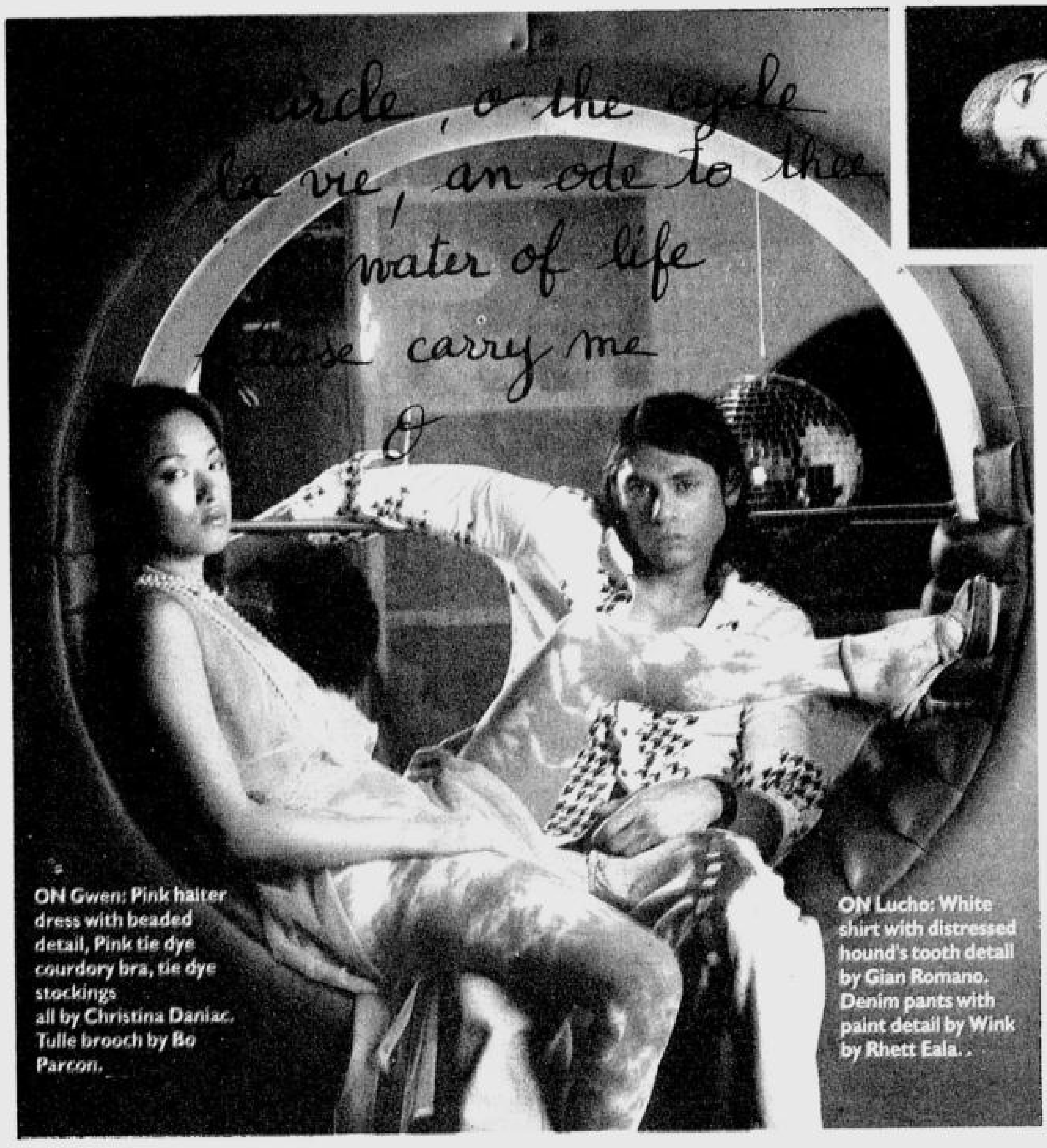


ON Gwen: Pink halter dress with beaded detail, Pink tie dye courdory bra, tie dye stockings all by Christina Daniac. Tulle brooch by Bo Parcon.

ON Lucho: White shirt with distressed hound's tooth detail by Gian Romano. Denim pants with paint detail by Wink by Rhett Eala..

... to think it's all in a days' work

Wet in Bed

By Tim Yap
Photos by Paolo Pineda
Styling by Gian Romano
Make up by Xeng Zulueta of Shu Uemura

It is a rainy Tuesday afternoon. The winds are howling and the sky radiates a darker shade of grey.

Inside Bed, Malate's establishment of the moment, (where people end up getting wet without trying to), Lucho Mendez paces around the bar. It is his first time on this side of town.

Gwen Garci's face is being rouged up by Shu Uemura's resident master Xeng Zulueta, and we end up chatting the afternoon away, like classmates delighted that classes have been suspended.

The new actress has just appeared in "Masamang Ugat" opposite Victor Neri—bouncing boobs with Maui Taylor—which turned out to be a hit. Her next film, "First Time," is a trilogy where all of the Viva Hot Babes are given plots (and more) to play with." My role is that of a lesbian who fantasizes about men (closet hetero, in that case), who gets gang-raped, among others. Bad girl *talaga*." says Gwen, with a naughty wink.

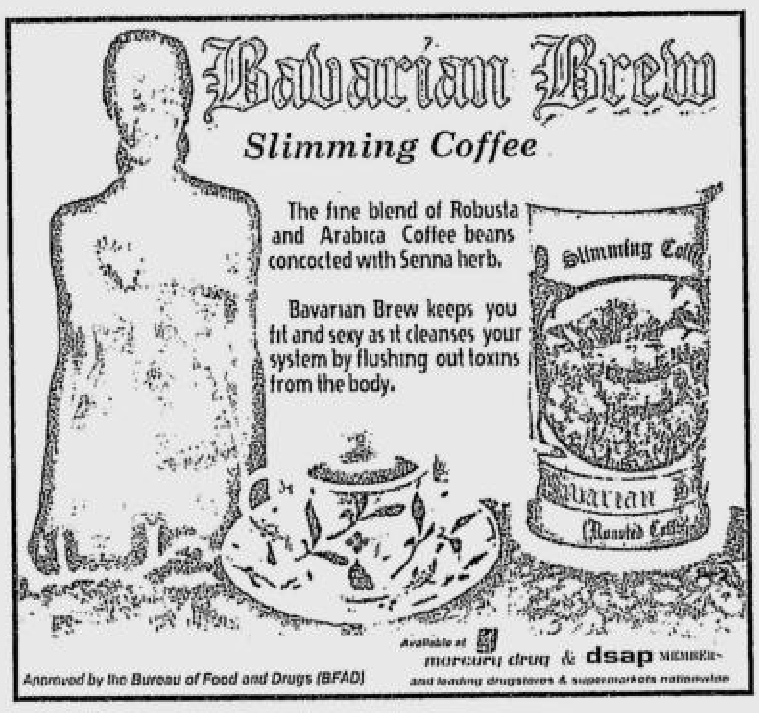
Try everything

"In real life, I'm good ... good in everything." Mai Lee Ang (Gwen's real name, pre-Viva Hot Babes) grew up in Baguio, where her Filipino-Chinese family owns a department store, a salon, and a spa, among other businesses.

"I just wanna try ... I just want to experience. *Mahilig akong mag*-try, *mag*-try *ng* everything." Either I am malicious, or this girl is trained to answer FHM questions on the nail. Looking at her innocent Zhang Ziyi-esque face, I think it's the former.

She admits to being "really shy." In fact, for the recent Viva Hot Babes tour, she would take a shot of tequila before each time she went onstage to disrobe. "My parents are really conservative. They think all *artistas* are hookers."

WET/H3



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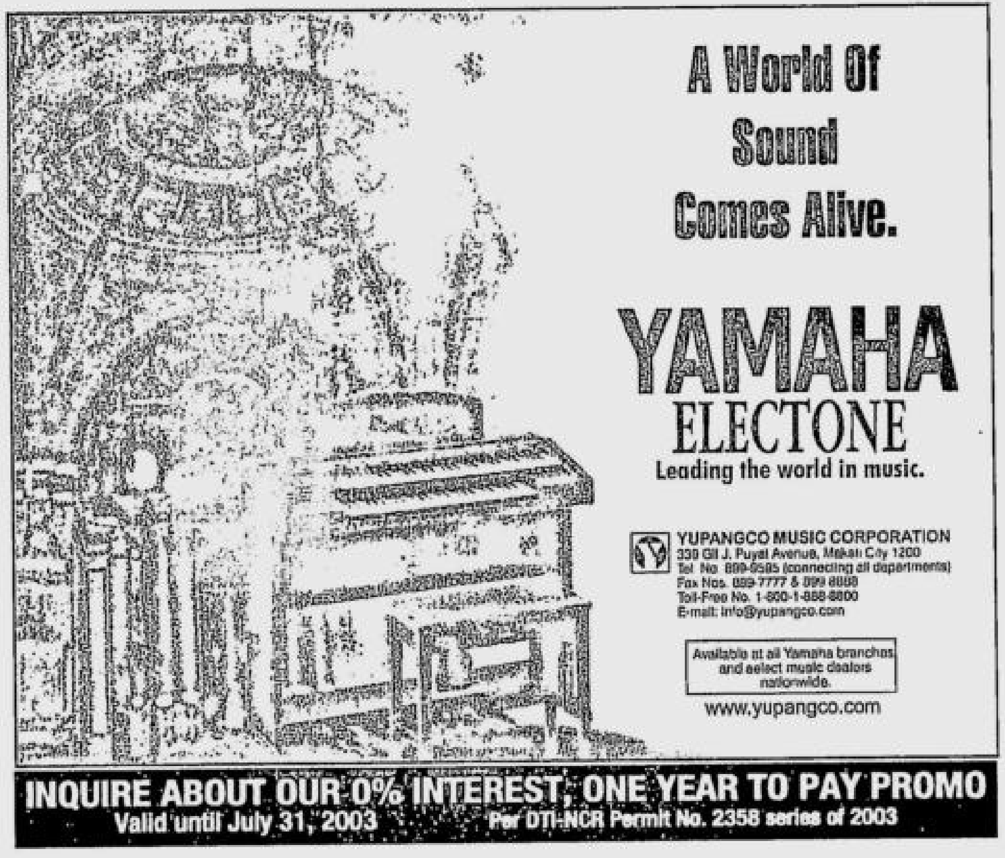
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Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

ME my Idol

NAOMI Campbell trips in the rain forest and no one else is there. Does she make a sound? More important: apart from a pack of killer ants, does anyone still give a shit?

Not really.

These days, in case you haven't noticed, a crew of Old Testament supermodels fighting over an Armani, or whatever was cool eons ago, would probably elicit a mere yawn and, if they're lucky, a few puzzled looks. Everyone has their own take on style today and the need to conform to strict and often outdated fashion standards has, along with Elsa Klensch's career and Real World vs. Road Rules, circled the drain.

Even modern day mall rats are slick enough to know that trucker hats are the new newsboy caps; that jeans—like cats—should have whiskers; that Madonna rapping is enough reason to toss your downloaded copy of American Life and run in the opposite direction. It's astonishing and kind of creepy how everything can now be manufactured, ripped, and passed around faster than you can press "Send."

Real-deal individual style comes at a higher premium these days, more than ever. Thankfully, most young people-in-the-know don't measure themselves against paint-by-numbers looks and prefer instead, to write their own rules. Stylists are the new DJs. How's that for self-expression? But if you're still running with the herd, how do you crawl out of The Gap and follow your own star? Here's a rough guide on how to become your own style idol:

Mix it up

In South America, my Norwegian roommate Julius often said my personal style—disheveled but cool—was refreshing and unusual. Maybe it was because I had no hangups about sticking out of the Andean landscape. I mixed pieces from previous travels (Triple 5 Soul, Dsquared2, Uth) with overtly ethnic stuff (a Peruvian beanie with earflaps, a ratty Brazilian soccer hoodie, Americanino), resulting in a laidback global mishmash.

It was something you'd never see on a random *calle* in Bogotá, much less on a foreign student. I wore this style wherever I went, and whether watching soccer games at the local stadium or doing architectural tours of the city's Jewish quarter. Like every club smash, the secret to style is always in the mix.

Live an alien life

More than air miles, a trip to someplace different quizzes you on how you relate to new environments. In the process, it puts you within focus of greater, sharper images. To paraphrase Lonely Planet: "It's your journey, your ass." Nothing gets my geek on like a new stamp in my passport, and I feed off this buzz until my next journey. Watching the sun rise in Syria, enjoying a cold *cerveza* in Venezuela, and barreling down a water slide in Canada made me realize there's more to life than my own little corner and that I should get to see as much of the world as I can.

In fact, I've gotten so used to a somewhat nomadic existence, that I prefer being an outsider to being the core of the party. The fresh perspectives I get from staying on the fringes makes everything—including deadlines, money and society's unsolicited two cents worth ("Brown is the new black!")—downright bogus.

WITH A SMILE ON MY FACE. Personal style and pride go hand in hand

Be a visionary, not a lemming, and grab a style that's like ... whoa!

Enjoy the silence

Large carnivorous dinosaurs hunted alone. Make like a T-Rex and break away from your usual posse once in a while. After days on end spent with a bunch of your best friends (mine are mostly Canadian and bring to mind a pack of wolves screaming for blood), you'll find that you can grow crazy fast away from them and still be tight. Deleting them from your buddy list would be too dramatic. From my experience, I'm most alert when I have no one to back me up. The best Saturday I've had so far involves watching "Igby Goes Down" at the Uptown, inhaling a huge bowl of chili and homemade cornbread at Nelly's on 17th, getting my monthly fix of The Face, and snagging the slickest pair of Religion jeans—all by my lonesome. I owned the silence that whole day, which prepared me for another mind-numbing night at the pub. Will Freeman, Hugh Grant's character in "About A Boy," summed up that sort of a day when he said, "I'm fucking Ibiza!" Word.

FASHION CLO

OPEN UP!

Be a visionary, not a lemming

Being an individual means cutting your own grain and having the guts to back up the slogan t-shirt you choose to wear. Case in point: Ernesto Guevara, Che to you, was from Argentina, a rebel, and Cuba's Ministry of Industry in the '60s. Kids who have no clue about South American history, yet insist on sporting Che Guevara shirts straight from the mall are lemmings. By the way, never wear a Che shirt in Mexico.

Other lemmings: people who gush over F4 without realizing they're walking into a marketing bear trap; fashion victims who quote that wrinkled bitch Carrie Bradshaw; kids who think they really have a say on TRL.

Visionaries in my shortlist: Michael Moore, Bill Maher, and Jon Stewart ("Bowling for Columbine," "Politically Incorrect," and "The Daily Show," respectively); as well as Bruce Springsteen, Hedi Slimane, Holden Caulfield, Michael Jordan, the Duke of Windsor, kids in Britain who make bootleg mixes known as mash-ups, and Steve Jobs, the dude who invented the iPod. These heroes' common denominator? They flipped the bird at herd mentality, gave normal life a smackdown, and were individuals to the core.

RE IS NO SOLUTION, BECAUSE THERE IS "PROBLEM."
MY NIECE IS COLD BECAUSE

BE YOUR OWN MANNEQUIN. Follow your own rules and mix it up

Surfing, key to world peace

With my first wave, the happiness that I had been struggling to attain was handed over to me in a few blissful seconds. Suddenly, everything made sense

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

FOR once, just this once, I'd like to forget about their tanned, glistening bodies that can ride waves like they were born to glide on water. Yes, just this once, I will see past graceful motions at the helm of a foamy crest, past the awe-inspiring vision of man one with Nature. I want to go beyond the whole "Blue Crush" and "Point Break" façade and explore the psyche of a surfer, to test my theory that surfers hold the key to achieving world peace.

This theory first took root in my mind about a year ago, on a freezing, wet day in Sydney. I woke up that morning to the clap of thunder and drumming rain on the rooftop. I walked over to the window and stared at the menacing dark clouds above, trying my darned best to stop my teeth from chattering along with the refrain of Kylie's "Love at First Sight." While the rest of the populace, I imagined, was about to spend an extra hour huddled under the sheets, or linger at the breakfast table with steaming cups of coffee, I was reaching for my Coppertone sunblock. For that was the day my best friend and I had picked to act out the "When in Rome ..." custom Down Under. That was the day we would learn how to surf.

A worse day there couldn't have been, but there was no way I could back out; I had already paid for the lessons with a whole week's earnings from a part-time waitressing job I had taken between classes. A refund was out of the question. Thus, icy rain and relentless wind notwithstanding, I packed my towel, slinked into my orange bikini, slapped on my board shorts, slathered on sunscreen and finally, donned my ankle-length leather trench coat with fur-trimmed collar and declared, "Surf's up!" Actually, it was more like, "s-s-s-u-r-r-r-r-f-s u-u-u-p!"

Drowned rats

We looked like two drowned rats as we waited at the designated pick-up point. Finally, a rainbow-colored van reminiscent of the Scooby gang's Mystery Machine pulled over. I was greeted by a chirpy, long-haired, blonde bloke, as though it was the middle of the summer solstice and there were dancing hula girls reflected on my shades.

"Ready to catch a wave, mates?" said the man whom I logically inferred to be one of the instructors—either that, or some neo-hippie who just popped an Ecstasy pill that morning. We hopped into the psychedelic Mystery Machine, where I then met the other instructor. He was wearing a funky, tropical printed button-down shirt, board shorts and a wide-brimmed straw hat. Hand him a pink cocktail with a tiny umbrella, and he could've passed for a waiter aboard a ship on a Mexican cruise. These surfers, I swear, rainy days or Mondays never get them down!

SURF'S UP! Let's all ride the wave

First wave

We drove to a pretty, private beach where the seashore stretched out for miles. Though the rain had stopped, the wind was still merciless, producing neat little baby waves breaking near the shoreline. Apparently, they were the perfect sort for first-timers. After a brief lesson on the sand, on how to paddle out properly and find your balance on the surfboard, we finally got ourselves wet in spine-chilling 17-degree water!

Trying to ignore the numbness that crept through my body, especially since I was already wearing two full-bodied wetsuits, I paddled hard, and when a good-sized wave came up behind me, I was ever-so-elegantly wiped out. When I came up for air, my tree-hugging instructors cheered me on, encouraging me to go back and keep trying. So into the water again I ventured, coasting through the whitecaps, and positioning myself for that elusive first wave. With each wipe-out after bloody wipe-out, I considered giving up, already rehearsing an excuse: my dietician had cautioned me against taking too much salt in my system.

And then I caught it. My first wave.

It was as if the happiness I had been struggling to attain all my life was finally handed over to me in those few blissful seconds as I stood proudly on my board, gliding on the cool blue waters. Suddenly, in a Zen-like moment of pure inspiration, everything made sense: life was not about conquering but uniting; inner peace was achieved not through empowerment but through surrender. That one wave that would never come again in this lifetime was all it took for me to understand true exhilaration. I peered out to shore and saw my two instructors cheering elatedly. I knew it was because I had unraveled a centuries-old secret that they themselves discovered a long time ago.

Back to local shores

Surfers always talk about the nirvana-like "feeling" that words poorly recreate. When I came back to the Philippines and hooked up with local surfers, I realized that the experience of that wave rush was a universal language that bonded all surfers from coast to coast, continent to continent.

Between heats during a surfing competition in La Union a few months back, I was immersed in a conversation with fellow disciples. "What I love most is the blissful feeling you get when catching and riding a wave," said local surfer Paolo Soler. "When you see new surfers catch their first wave, and you see that grin, the fire in their eyes as they paddle back to the lineup, you know exactly what they are feeling," Karla Gozun, another local surfer, added. "That 'stoke' promotes instant kinship."

That "kinship" seems to carry on beyond the water's edge. I always used to wonder why most of the surfers I had met exuded this uber-chill, laid-back vibe in the midst of the most stressful concrete jungles. Now I know it isn't the effect of donning neon-colored Billabong board shorts, half-faded T-shirts and velcro sandals, for these are just accessories wrapped around unconquerable spirits. Indeed, it's not the cool clothes that make the surfer. What makes a true surfer is an open mindset shaped slowly with each rush of a Pacific wave. Also an irreversible certainty that happiness is not found in the frills or superfluous bequests of a materialistic life, but rather in the simplest offerings that have been around since the dawn of civilization.

Water baby Ana Villalon confessed that she used to be very picky about out-of-town accommodations until she got into surfing. "I used to be super *arte* about having an aircon, bathroom and food. But with surfing, there is no being *maarte*. The search for good waves can lead you to places with no plumbing or electricity! I psych myself up for the worst—and somehow bedbugs, mosquitoes and horrible food never measure up to the fun that you have with your friends out in the surf."

"I think the whole laid-back surfer's lifestyle is just an outcome of the satisfaction you get out of surfing, because you feel you don't need anything else," added Paolo. "Surfers are pretty much content with just surfing."

This truth I witness firsthand each time I go on a surfing trip and get happily sucked into the free-flowing energy that is so alive even during the lulls between waves, spiced up by a little beer and maybe a good Jack Johnson number. Or even at nightfall, as surf-seekers sit around a bonfire listening to the strums of a guitar accompanying wave after wave of tales of the sapphire sea.

Far-out theory

I know I could come across as an utterly idealistic, wet-behind-the-ears neophyte to conclude that the final solution to global conflict is a little ride on the wave, but I need to hold on to such an eccentric belief. I may be a bit crazy to think that if only the powers-that-be looked for waves instead of WMDs, if only powerful nations held a little more fascination with water than with oil, there would definitely be less suffering in the world.

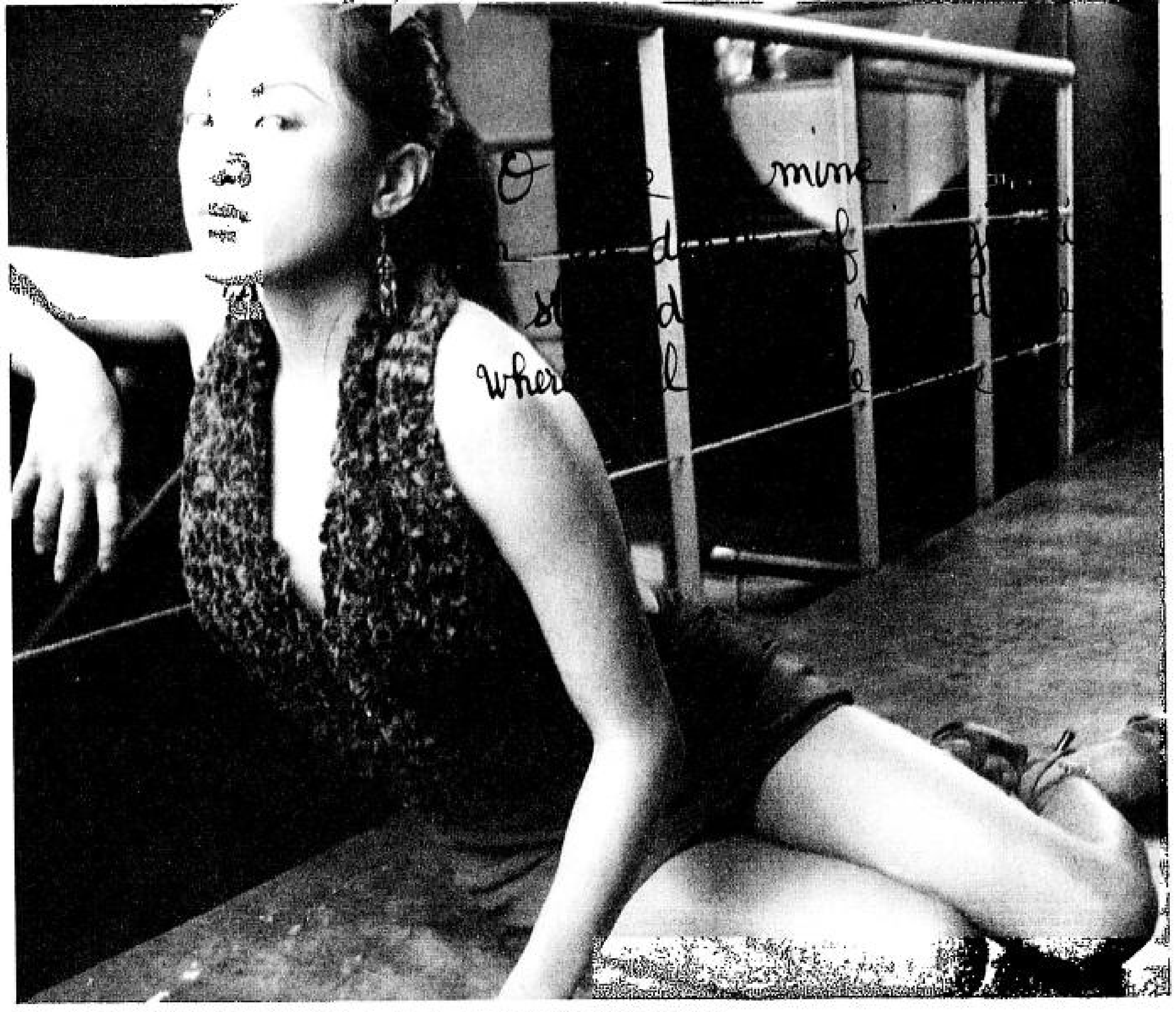
Intermittently, I am reminded of a fellow surfer's experience while out at sea:

It was sunset, and the water glowed with the last light of the day just concluded. She knew a war was about to ensue in a faraway gulf, but could not grasp why such widespread misery was soon to be unleashed, and in fact how such hatred could exist, especially when the only world she knew at that moment was a calm sea that she hoped she could be one with yet again.

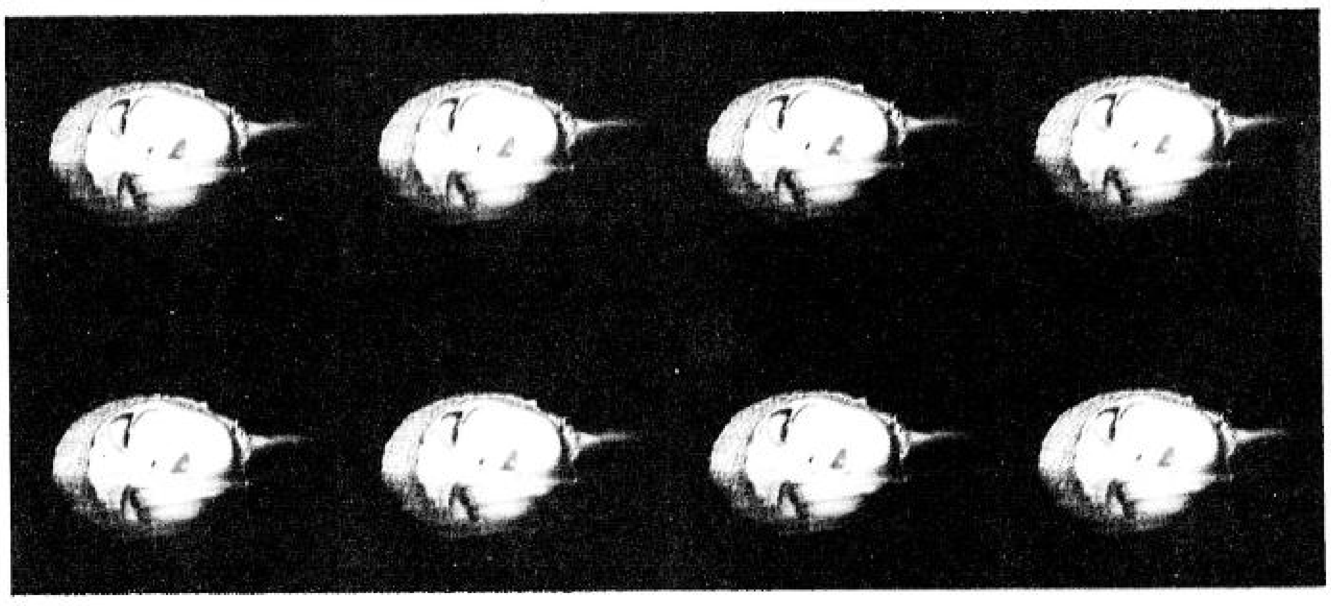
(Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)

A time will
for everyon
a fleeting m
but O wh

STRENGTH FROM ONE'S SENSITIVE SIDE Pin stripe coat with stitching detail and denim pants all by Gian Romano. Checkered grey men's shirt worn as bet by Wink by Rhett Eala. Brooch, suspenders, belt and scarf, stylist's own.



ALL ALONE BUT NOT LONELY Crochet halter top with tube worn as dress.



Wet in Bed

From page H1

After her dad passed away four years ago, she gave herself a while before accepting any offers. "I know my dad wouldn't approve, but..."

These days, its a "work-sleep-work" schedule. Bold actresses have to work double-time, as new groups—Violet Belles, Sizzling Sisters—are being launched in a battle for the testosterone buck.

So did she have to do the mandatory breast enlargement? "My breasts are not that big. I wanted it bigger, but they said it's okay."

Calvin Klein model

On the other side of the room, the scene's newest "it" boy sits quietly. From the time he got back to Manila from Seattle, Lucho Mendez has made waves, causing heads to turn in the city's trendier night spots.

I couldn't believe it—the six-foot-tall Filipino-Spanish hunk in front of me used to be 220 lbs! "They called me *baboy*. Pig, pig! Oink, oink," said Lucho as he changed into a Gian Romano shirt.

I am not surprised that he walked away with the top prize for "Seattle's Raining Men" (a male pageant which Troy Montero won before coming to the Philippines). Some of the contestants he bested were Abercombie and Fitch models.

"That gave me a lot of confidence," Lucho says. He also did a ramp show for Calvin Klein underwear.

So why did he decide to come back here and pursue a career here? "I got so lonely in the States." To get in touch with his other side, he even started writing down his thoughts and feelings in a diary. The sensitive male cometh.

He worked as a flight attendant for Alaska Airlines for two and a half years. "The money was good, but what's money if you're just by yourself?"

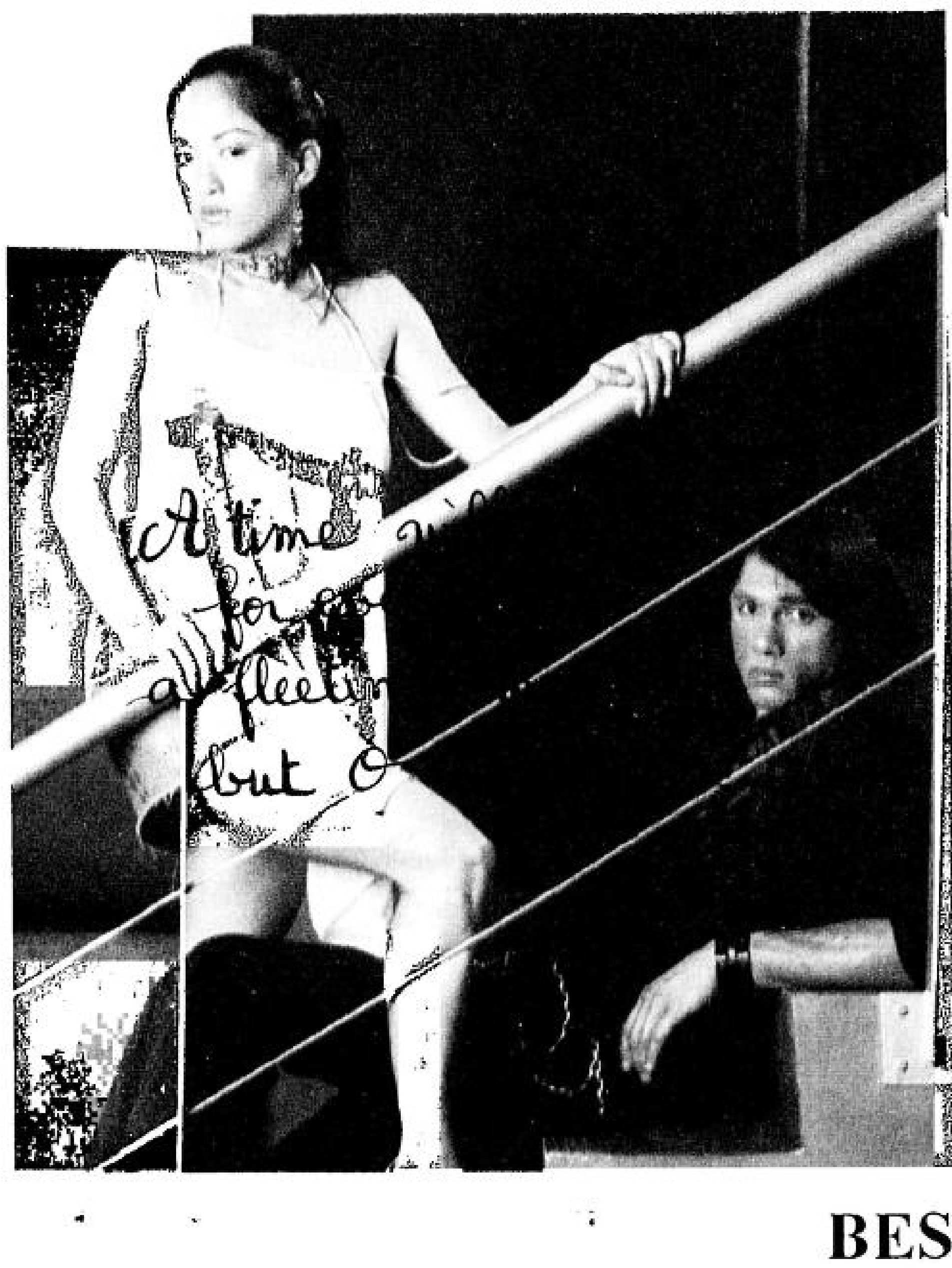
Between brownouts and bites of Chicken McNuggets, we spend the afternoon like fratmates in a dorm, really relaxed with nary a tinge of sexual tension in the air.

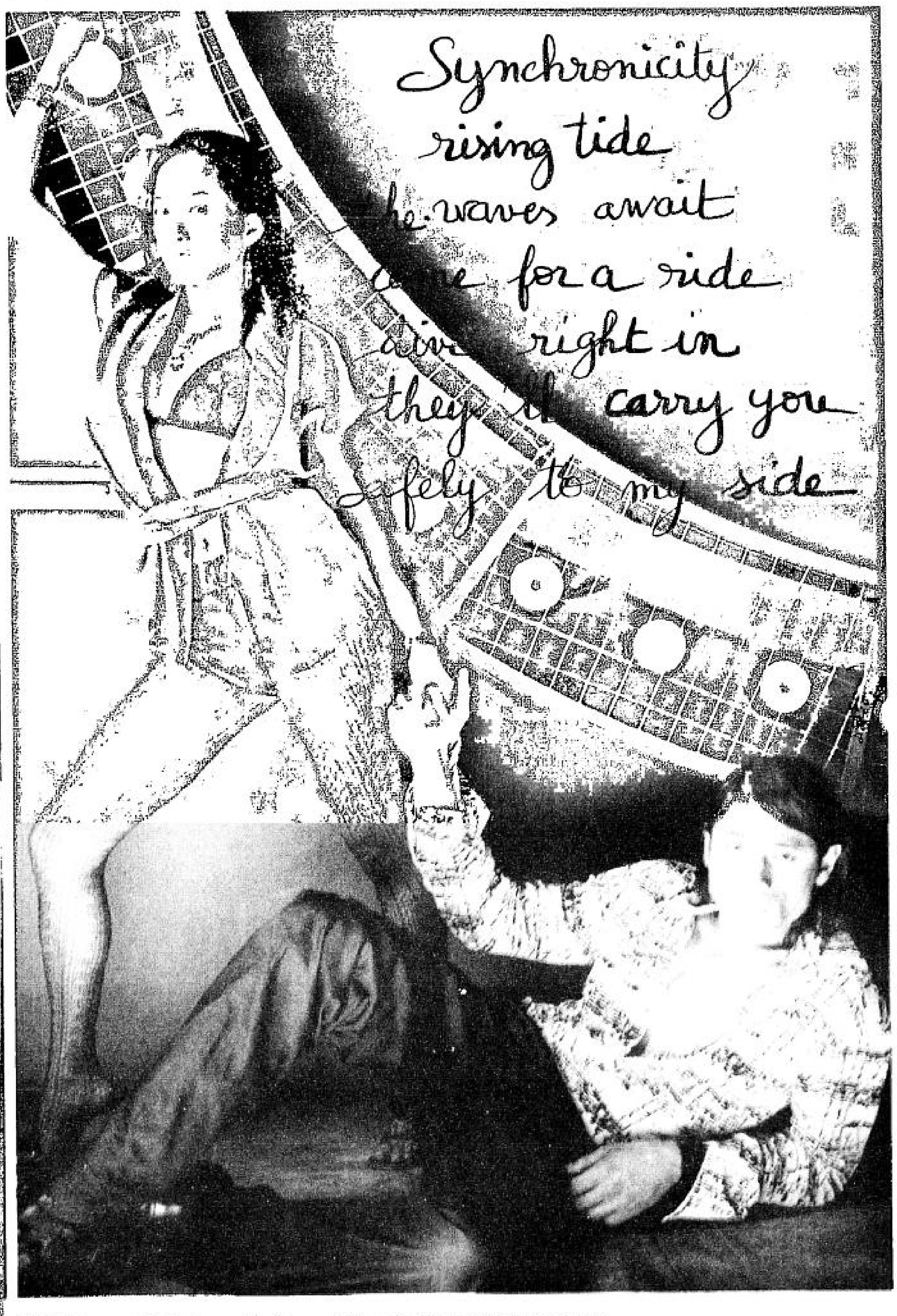
Once the lights go back on and photographer Paolo Pineda starts clicking, a pout is instantly projected, stares become overtly sexual, bodies glisten and reflect the red interiors of the club.

Outside, the winds continue to wail, the rain pours, and traffic is at a standstill. Malate looks romantic, even in tempestuous weather.

Inside Bed, the chameleons continue to gyrate, until Paolo calls it a wrap. It's all in a day's work.

(Special thanks to Jay Santos and the management of Bed)





DENIM hot pants by Bo Parcon. Earrings and fishnet stockings, stylist's own. Shoes, Bracelet and necklace model's own.
On Lucho: White sheer top with paint detail by Gian Romano. Black pants by Wink by Rhett Eala. Shoes, model's own.

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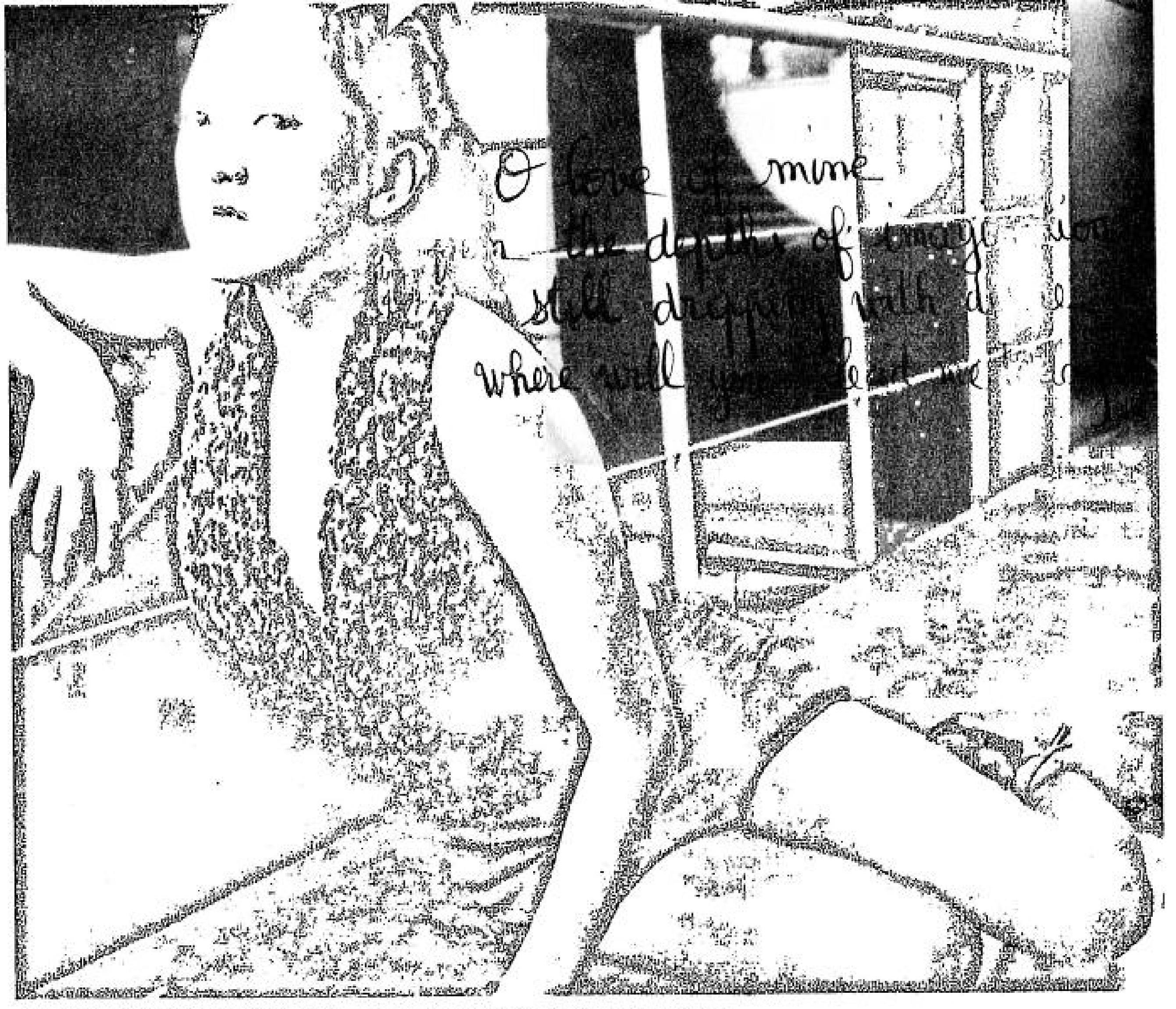
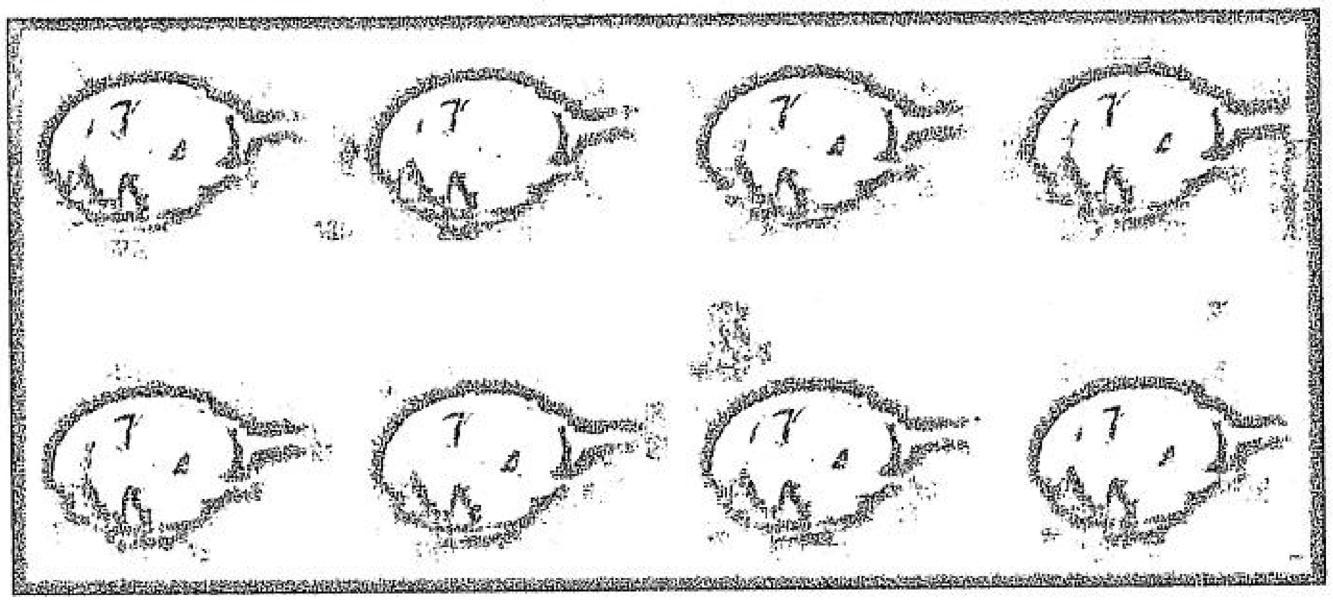
STRENGTH FROM ONE'S SENSITIVE SIDE Pin stripe coat with detail and denim pants all by Gian Romano. gray men's shirt worn Wink by Rhett Eala. Brooch, suspenders, scarf, stylist's own.



ALL ALONE BUT NOT LONELY Crochet halter top with tube worn as dress.



Wet in Bed

From page H1

After her dad passed away four years ago, she gave herself a while before accepting any offers. "I know my dad wouldn't approve, but..."

These days, its a "work-sleep-work" schedule. Bold actresses have to work double-time, as new groups—Violet Belles, Sizzling Sisters—are being launched in a battle for the testosterone buck.

So did she have to do the mandatory breast enlargement? "My breasts are not that big. I wanted it bigger, but they said it's okay."

Calvin Klein model

On the other side of the room, the scene's newest "it" boy sits quietly. From the time he got back to Manila from Seattle, Lucho Mendez has made waves, causing heads to turn in the city's trendier night spots.

I couldn't believe it—the six-foot-tall Filipino-Spanish hunk in front of me used to be 220 lbs! "They called me *baboy*. Pig, pig! Oink, oink," said Lucho as he changed into a Gian Romano shirt.

I am not surprised that he walked away with the top prize for "Seattle's Raining Men" (a male pageant which Troy Montero won before coming to the Philippines). Some of the contestants he bested were Abercombie and Fitch models.

"That gave me a lot of confidence," Lucho says. He also did a ramp show for Calvin Klein underwear.

So why did he decide to come back here and pursue a career here? "I got so lonely in the States." To get in touch with his other side, he even started writing down his thoughts and feelings in a diary. The sensitive male cometh.

He worked as a flight attendant for Alaska Airlines for two and a half years. "The money was good, but what's money if you're just by yourself?"

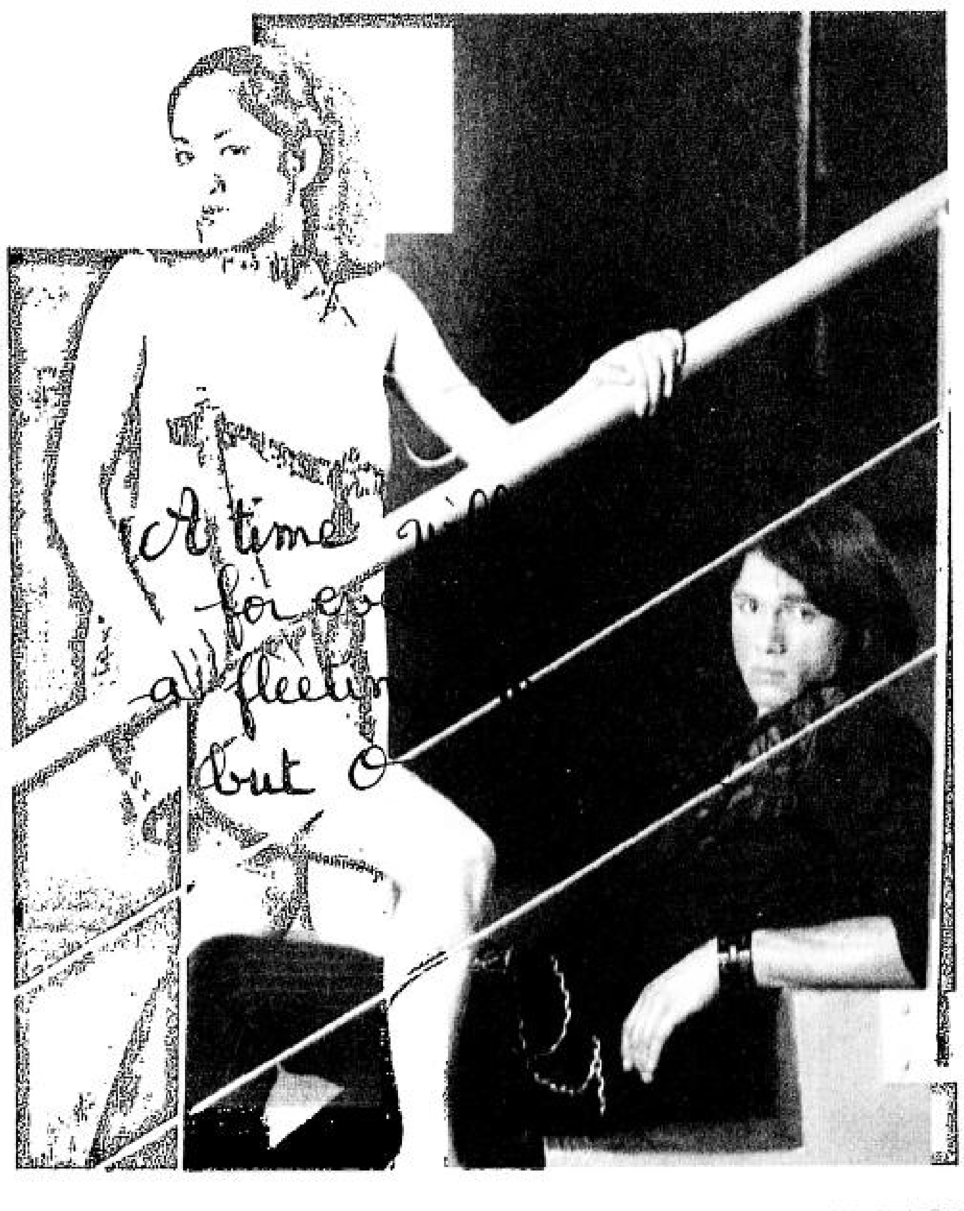
Between brownouts and bites of Chicken McNuggets, we spend the afternoon like fratmates in a dorm, really relaxed with nary a tinge of sexual tension in the air.

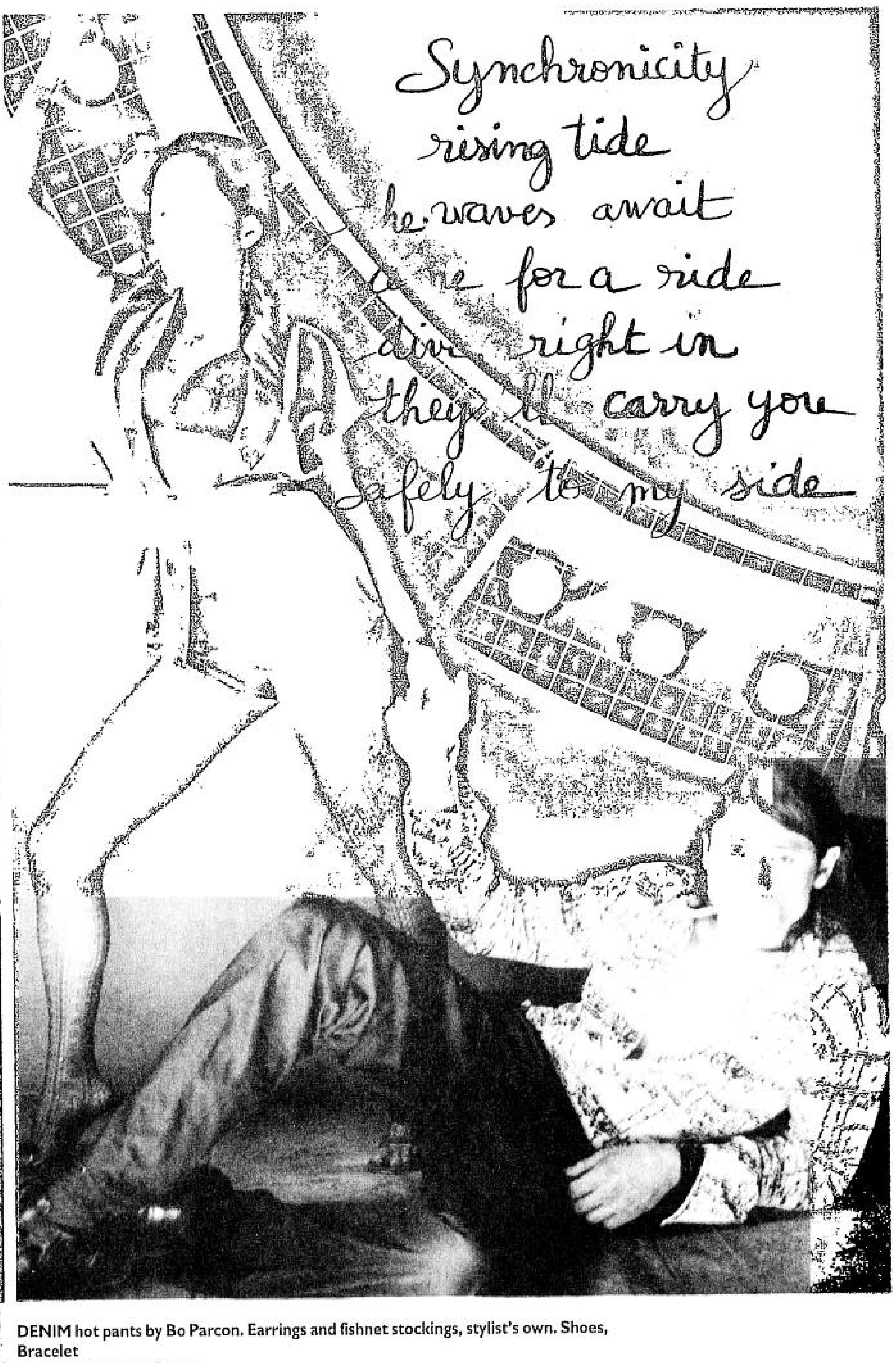
Once the lights go back on and photographer Paolo Pineda starts clicking, a pout is instantly projected, stares become overtly sexual, bodies glisten and reflect the red interiors of the club.

Outside, the winds continue to wail, the rain pours, and traffic is at a standstill. Malate looks romantic, even in tempestuous weather.

Inside Bed, the chameleons continue to gyrate, until Paolo calls it a wrap. It's all in a day's work.

(Special thanks to Jay Santos and the management of Bed)





DENIM hot pants by Bo Parcon. Earrings and fishnet stockings, stylist's own. Shoes, Bracelet
and necklace model's own.
On Lucho: White sheer top with paint detail by Gian Romano. Black pants by Wink by Rhett Eala. Shoes, model's own.

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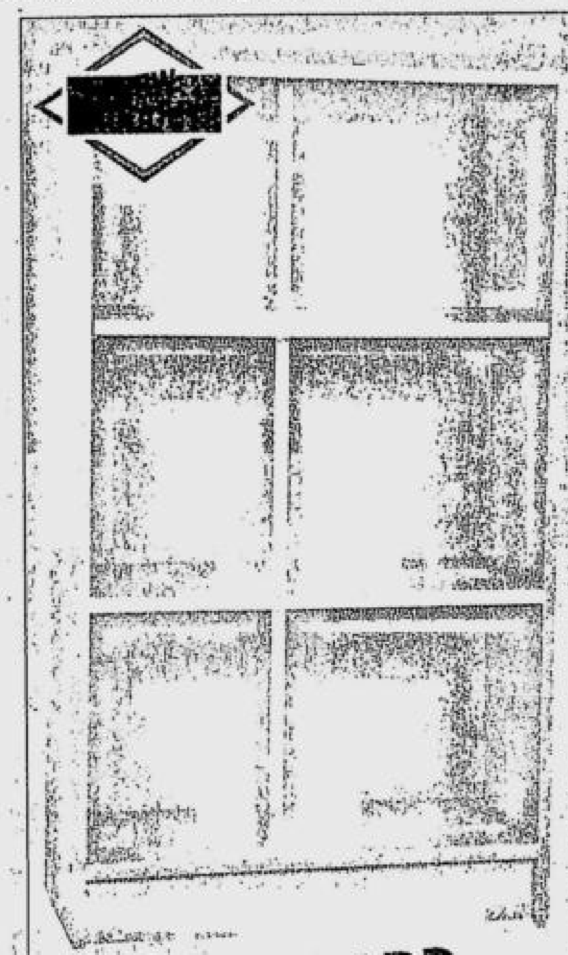

MDF BOARD

ACE
Bookshelf
ACE 938
598x238mm
P1,149

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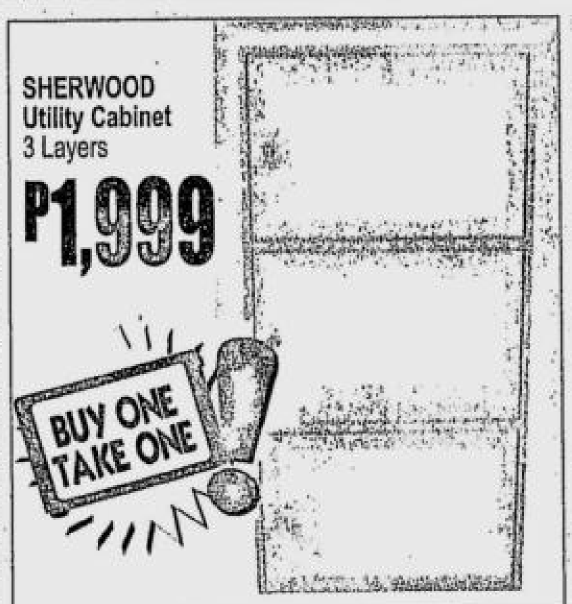
Utility Cabinet
3 Layers
P1,999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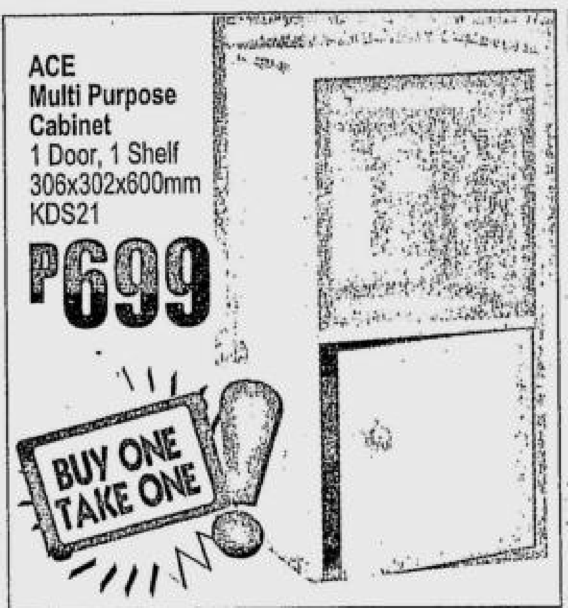
ACE
Multi Purpose Cabinet
1 Door, 1 Shelf
306x302x600mm
KDS21
P699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CONOR
Computer Chair
With Arms
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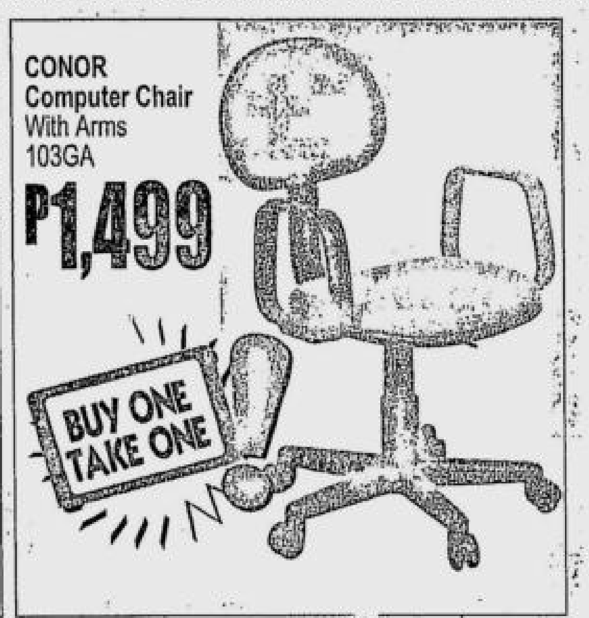
P1,499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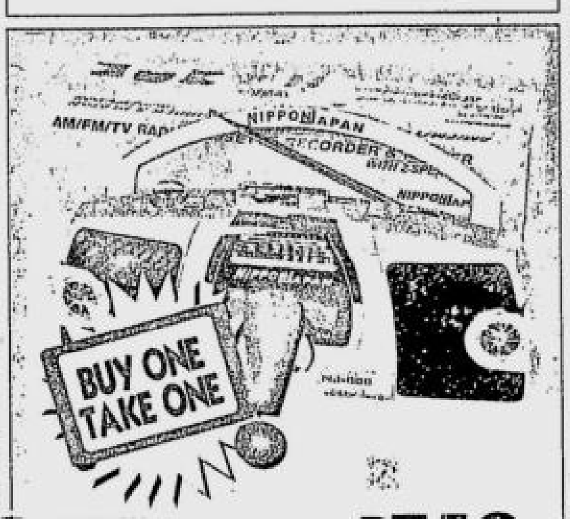
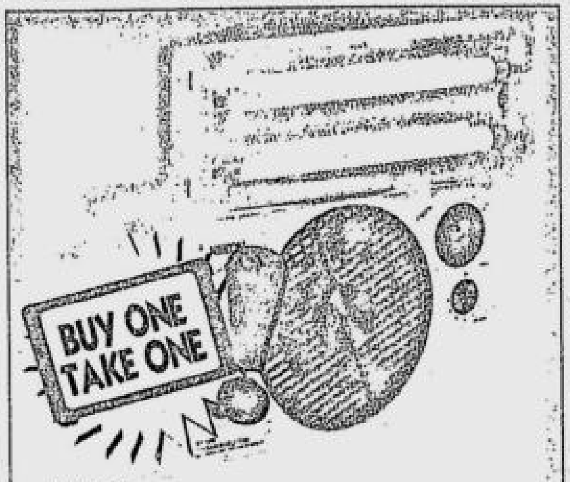

BUY ONE TAKE ONE

NIPPON
Radio Cassette Recorder
NJ-666
P749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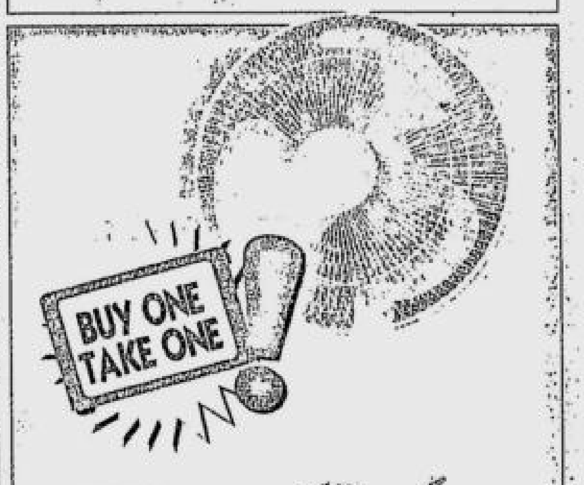
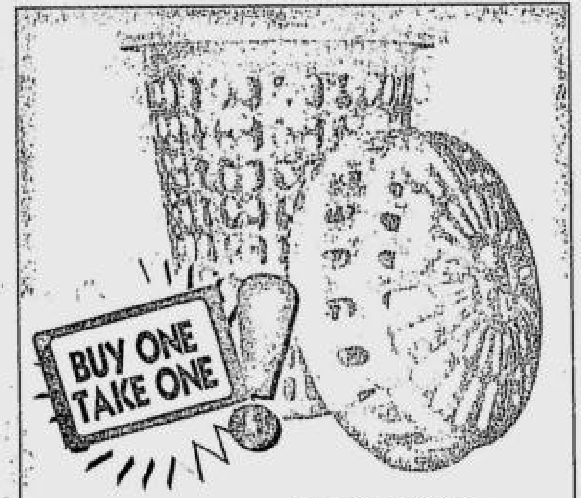
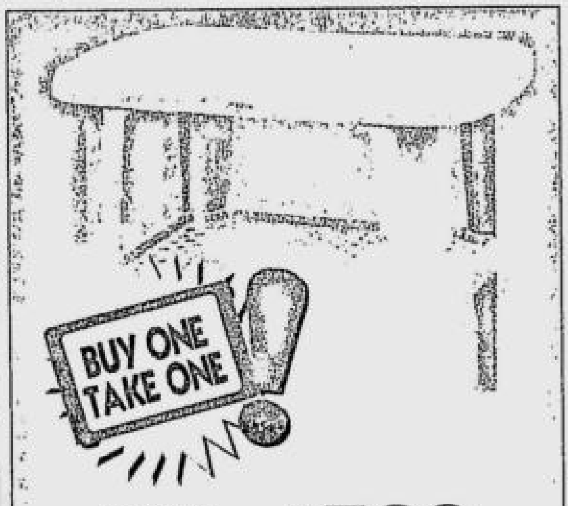
NIKON
Rechargeable Fan
With 2 Lamps, LCD Clock
AM/FM Radio, SF-198B
P949


BUY ONE TAKE ONE

UNION
Desk Fan 16"
WMD/IMD16
Windmaster
P849


BUY ONE TAKE ONE

Laundry Hamper
With Lid
P299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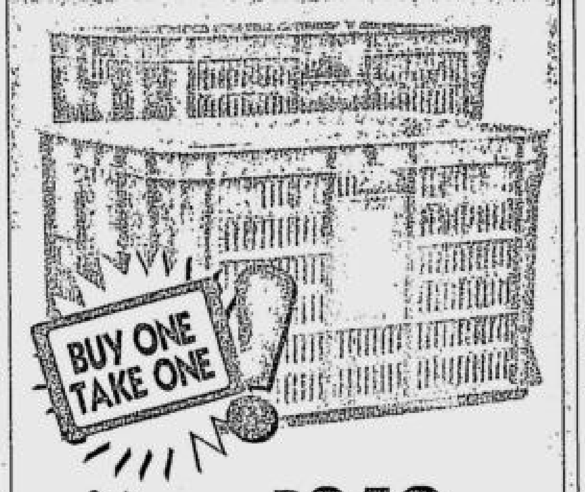
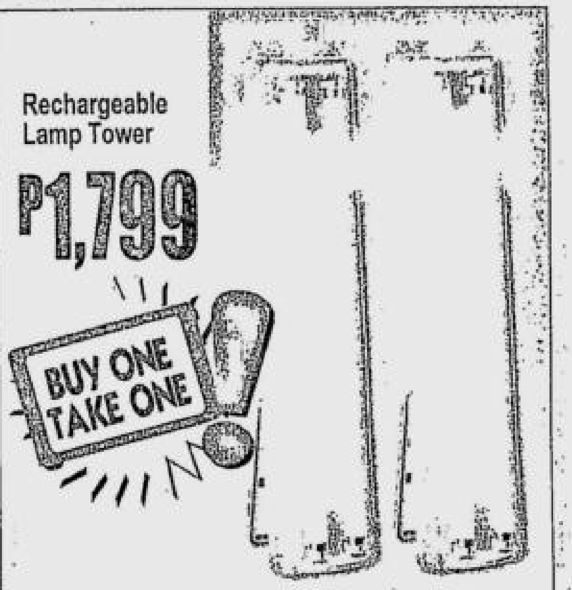
SANYANG
Center Table
SY825/711
P599


BUY ONE TAKE ONE

Crate
Assorted Colors
#809
P249

Rechargeable
Lamp Tower
P1,799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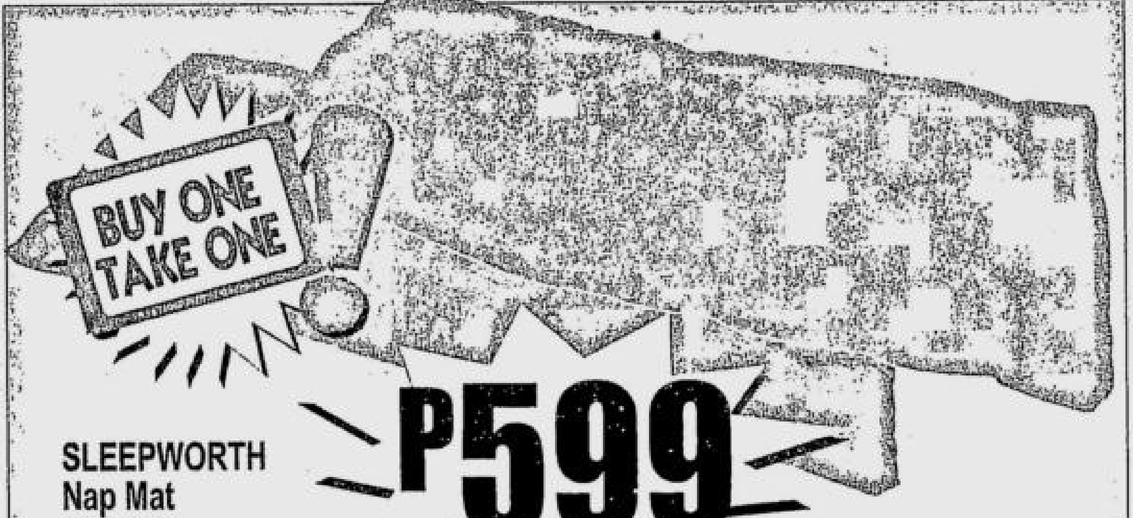
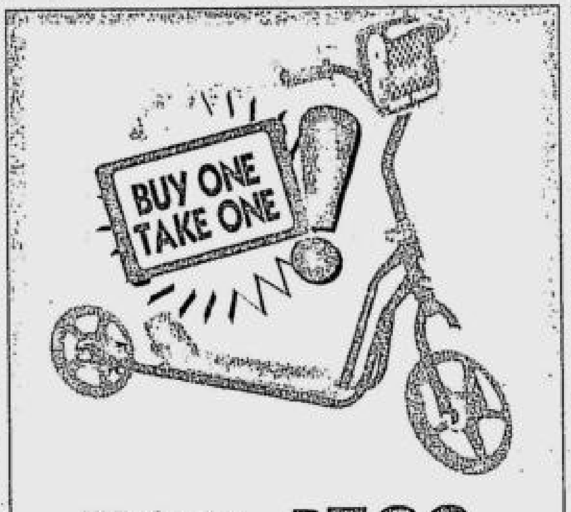
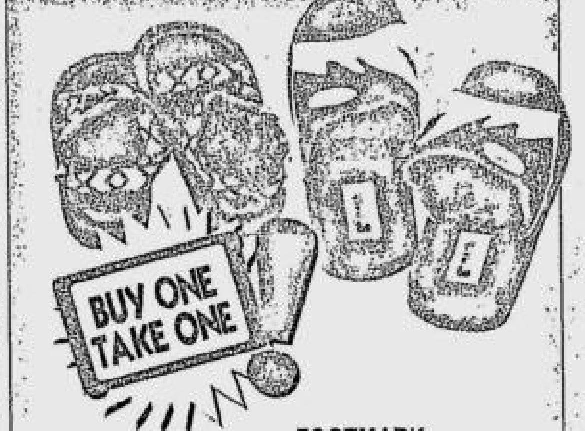

BUY ONE TAKE ONE

SLEEPWORTH
Nap Mat
28x72x3
P599


BUY ONE TAKE ONE

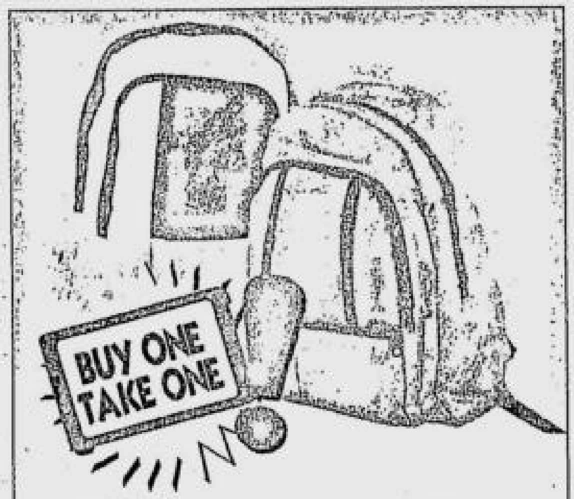
Kid's Scooter
With Big Wheels
P599


BUY ONE TAKE ONE

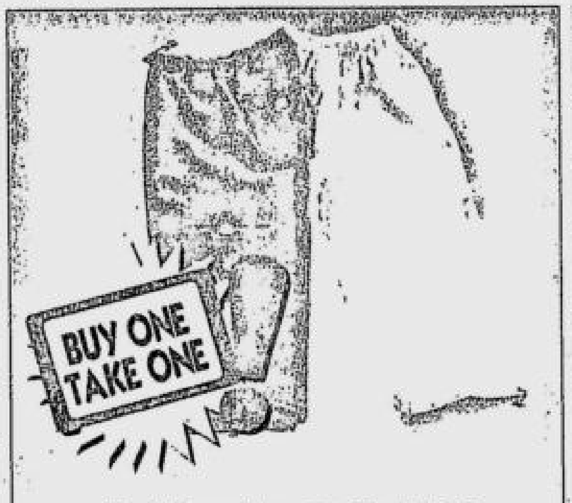
FOOTMARK

- **Men's Slip-On Slippers**
  336E
- **Kid's Rubber Sandals**
  2018C

P129


BUY ONE TAKE ONE

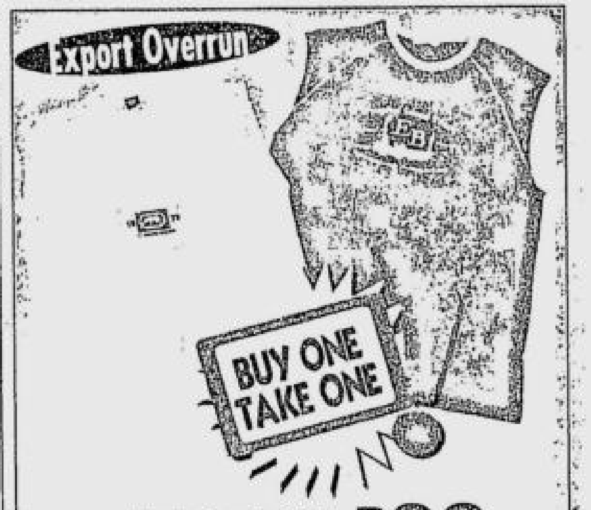
UNIQUE
Backpack
Assorted Light Colors
P179


BUY ONE TAKE ONE

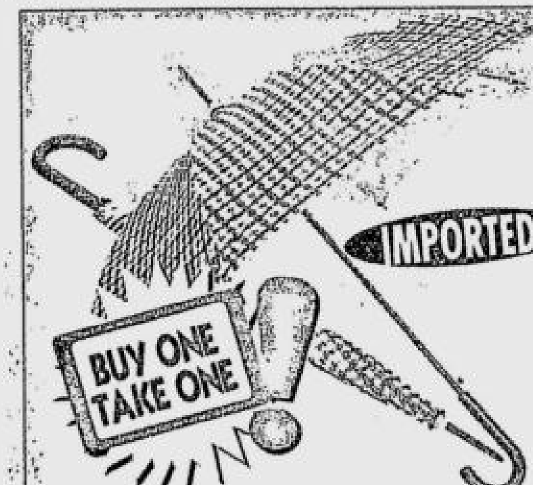
Men's Drawstring
Capri Pants
Assorted Colors
P249

BUY ONE TAKE ONE

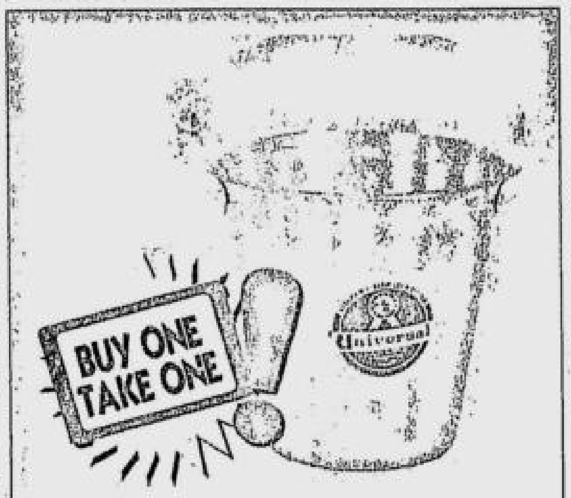
AMERICAN BELL
Men's Jeans
Size 26-36
P349


Export Overrun
BUY ONE TAKE ONE

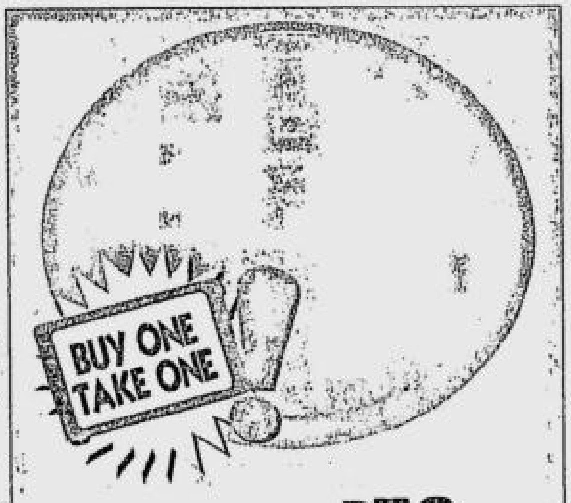
Men's Muscle Shirt
Assorted Colors
With Print
P99


IMPORTED
BUY ONE TAKE ONE

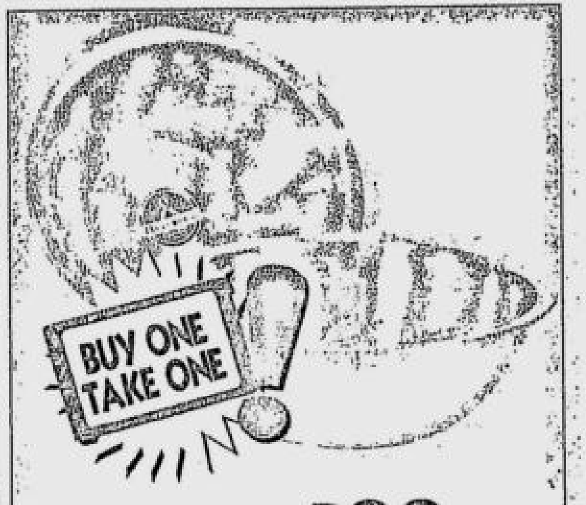
21" Umbrella
Printed
P99


BUY ONE TAKE ONE
Universal

Ice Bucket
Aluminum, Medium
P89


BUY ONE TAKE ONE

Plastic Basin
22cm.
P79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Mixing Bowl
Aliminum, Big
24cm.
P99

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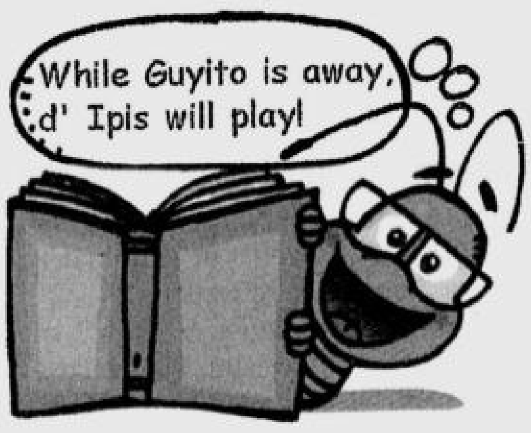
While Guyito is away, d' Ipis will play!

Junior Inquirer special

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2003 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

E-mail: pr_junior_inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

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WHAT'S INSIDE:

- New in School Page 2
- Hooray! for Claret's football team Page 3
- Essay: Friends in War Page 4
- Shirley's Pets, Atomo and Weboy, and Lunch Box Page 7

JI WINS BOOK BOARD AWARD

By Eline Santos

JUNIOR Inquirer received a special citation from the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) during the 20th National Children's Book Day (NCBD).

PBBY awarded the citation to JI "for gifting children in the Philippines with a magazine they can call their own... it has empowered young writers by giving them voice and young artists by offering them space, thus helping to rear a new generation of writers, illustrators and readers."

JI "has empowered young writers by giving them voice and young artists by offering them space, thus helping to rear a new generation of writers, illustrators and readers."

ART BY STEPH BRAVO

Pol Medina Jr. of Pugad Baboy fame also received a citation for his long-running comic strip.

Ad executive Russell Molina won the Salanga Writers' Prize for his story "Sandosenang Kuya" while Fine Arts student Hubert Fucio won the Alcala Illustrators' Prize.

The winners of the annual story writing and illustrating contest received P25,000 each from the Cultural Center of the Philippines and a medallion from the National Library.

First Pinoy Kiddie Book

NCBD is held every third Tuesday of July to remember when Dr. Jose Rizal's retelling and illustrations of "The Monkey and the Turtle" were first published in Trubner's Oriental, a London publication, in July 1889.

More good books for kids! That was the dream from which PBBY began in 1983.

The organization was put up by lovers of children's literature such as cartoonist Larry Alcala, poet Alfredo Salanga, National Artists Virgilio Almario and Lucrecia Kasilag.

They were also the group we can thank for National Children's Book Day, which fell on July 15 this year.

Top Books for Kids

National Children's Book Day doesn't mean a thing without a young reader and her book. Some kids share thoughts on their favorite books.

"I like 'Lord of the Rings' because of the suspense and the action. You know in the book, you can use your own imagination in your own way."—**Jonathan Sewell**, Grade 7, San Beda College, Manila

"Archie Comics because of its humor. I like to make people laugh."—**Simon Allen Aranas**, Grade 6, Xavier School, San Juan

"I like 'Cinderella.' I also like 'Heidi' because I learn about friendship."—**Maria Couline Gloria**, Grade 3, St. Scholastica College, Manila

"Harry Potter book 5. It is exciting to read because it keeps me guessing on what will happen. It always makes my mind work!"—**Griffin Mabasa**, Grade 6, Xavier School, San Juan

JI Wins/ p. 6

sun glo
Juice Drinks
Oooh-Wee! sa Uhaw!
Sungloville
BUILDING INSTRUCTIONS
Take an empty Sunglo box.
Unglue and unfold the cardboard box.
Lay it flat on the table, design side up
Get a cutter or scissors (ask an adult to cut for you).
Carefully cut out all the house designs along the solid lines.
Lay all the pieces flat on the table.
Fold the designs along the dotted lines.
With the cover image as a guide, place together the cut-out design.
Use the folds and slots of the design to lock it all into place.
Also cut out the car design and fold it into a car shape.
You've just made a Sungloville house and car!
COLLECT ALL 7 DESIGNS!
FUN DAY AT THE MALL!
ROBINSONS Galleria
September 13, 2003
ROBINSONS PAMPANGA
August 2, 2003
WE ARE COMING TO YOUR SCHOOL!
Juice Drinks
CREATE-YOUR-OWN Sungloville CONTEST!
Unleash your creativity and win exciting prizes for you and for your school!
1st Prize: P 25,000 for participant
1 computer for school
2nd Prize: P15,000 for participant
1 T.V. for school
3rd Prize: P10,000 for participant
1 Stereo System for school

What is Sungloville?

Sungloville toys are cute & fun cardboard cut-out miniatures which you cut, fold and construct into houses and cars! Sungloville toys comes with every 10-piece box of Sunglo Juice Drinks, and different flavors mean different cut-out toys! So collect all 7 Sungloville toys now and build your own Sunglo village!

MECHANICS:

MODEL-MAKING RULES

1 Create a model town based on Sungloville Cut Out Toys which you can get from boxes of Sunglo Juice Drinks.
2. Use your creativity and imagination to design the layout and objects of your town using any and all materials you want (such as paper mache volcanoes, toothpick telephone poles, trees made of foil, green paint or felt paper for grass, styrofoam skyscrapers, etc.)
3. The base of the model town can be made from illustration board or wood, and can be of any size depending on the participant's creativity (maximum size allowed: 24 inches width, 24 inches length)
4. Model town entries can have as many building as preferred, but must have at least 1 building and car from each of the 7 Sunglo flavors. (minimum of 7 different buildings/cars)

HOW TO ENTER
1. This contest is open to all elementary students Grades 1 to 6 from schools nationwide.
2. Contestants may enter as a single individual or as a group.
3. Promo period is from July 15, 2003 to August 15,2003.
4. After creating your model town, take at least 4 pictures of the finished model, making sure that at least one picture is a long shot and one is close up. Choose the best angles for your other shots. Make sure that the pictures are clear and bright. You can send a maximum of 6 shots.
5. At the back of every picture you send, write (in block letters) your name, home address, telephone /mobile number, school year, and the name and address of your school. Also include a name and/or short description of your Sungloville model town. Place your pictures in a mailing envelope. Entries must be sent by registered mail to "CREATE-YOUR-OWN-SUNGLOVILLE Contest", c/o Zest-O Corporation, 574 EDSA, Caloocan City.
6. All entries must be in at 5.00 pm of August 15, 2003.
7. Ten (10) finalists will be selected on the basis of the following criteria:
Originality - 25%
Design sense - 25%
Imaginative use of materials -25%
Visual impact -25%
8. Finalists will be notified through registered mail and telegram.
9. Finalists shall bring their actual Sungloville models to Zesto Corporation, 574 EDSA Caloocan; or Resource Ads, 2781 Daan Hari St., United Paranaque Subdivision, Paranaque City; Finalists from Visayas or Mindanao shall bring their models to the nearest Roppets Productions office: Cebu- Golden Valley, La Guerta, Lahug, Cebu City; Dumaguete- Ma Nolloy's La Cavitena, Silliman Ave., Dumaguete City.
These models will be included in the Sungloville Final Judging and Mall Exhibit on September 13, 2003, 12-6pm at Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas Center.
10. Prizes are tax-free.
11. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
12. Employees of Zest-O Corporation, Resource Ads, Inc., Roppets Production, and their relatives up to second degree of affinity and consanguinity are disqualified from joining the contest.

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Junior Inquirer Special

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THE Junior Inquirer Special is published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer every last Saturday of the month. We accept poetry, short story, essay and art contributions for our For or By Kids section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the piece (double-spaced on letter-sized paper), along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Junior Inquirer Editor.

Letters to the editor may be sent to our e-mail address <ji@inquirer.com.ph>. Our office is at the Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, Philippines, with telephone number 897-8808 local 340. Snail mail: P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines. E-mail: ji@inquirer.com.ph

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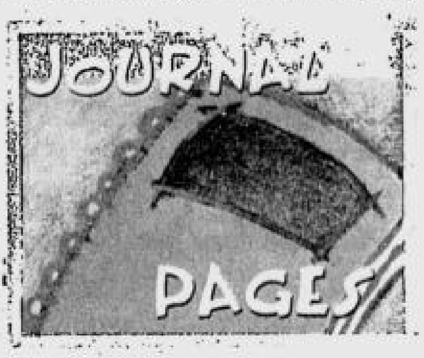
Child-Friendly Awardee
UNICEF-PPI CHILD-FRIENDLY NEWSPAPER AND JOURNALIST AWARDS

2003 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee



New Kid in School

By Elisha Eloriaga
Grade 6, Assumption College
San Lorenzo, Makati

WHEN I was in the third grade I was a new student in this certain school. I didn't know how people there acted or how they would treat me. Of course I was also worried if I would fit in. On the way to school, I kept on thinking about a lot of things and I was just so nervous.

When I arrived in my school I quickly asked myself, what is in store for me in this school? Were the people here friendly? Were new students ostracized or accepted? My hands were starting to sweat and my palms were shaking so hard.

While I was walking to my classroom I felt like everybody was looking at me. Finally I was at the door of my classroom, but then I hesitated. I felt like a small girl who was about to step into a classroom full of giants, and I was afraid they would squash me. My classroom looked like a long stretch of jelly that was too impossible to walk on.

Despite all those feelings I tried my best to stay calm. So I walked to a chair as casually as I could. I sat there looking around not knowing what to do. Should I go up to them or should I just wait? I asked myself.

Suddenly this friendly girl came up to me and asked me what my name was. I had to look all the way up to be able to see her face. Her face looked so friendly and it made me want to talk to her.

She asked me a lot of questions but I didn't get annoyed. We talked for a while and then our teacher suddenly came in. Everybody sat down and then our teacher introduced me to my classmates. She told them that they should make me feel welcome. I looked at my newfound friend and smiled at her. She smiled back and that must be the most memorable experience I had in school.

A Month for Books

MORE than a month in school! Whew, I bet you're knee-deep in homework and busy with your new school clubs and gimmicks with friends. Soon enough, you'll be busy reviewing for quarterly exams! It'll be more time with more books then.

Not all books are intimidating though. July has been an exciting month full of exciting book happenings.

Lucky Harry Potter fans finally got their hands on Book 5 and others—who were not so lucky—are still waiting for a fresh supply in bookstores.

In this issue of Junior Inquirer Special, our contributors Bhel Certeza and Luigi Manzo give you two views on the new Harry Potter book. Don't worry, the reviews won't give away the ending. At least those who haven't gotten hold of the book yet will get a taste of Harry's new adventures through these reviews.

You'll meet young author Lian Dyogi on page 6. She published her first book when she was only 7 years old. Can you believe that? On page 4, Max Singer from International School Manila also writes about his grandfather Manuel Roxas—the first President of the Republic of the Philippines—and the late president's friendship with a Japanese soldier. Iggy Ipis also gives you the lowdown on new books from Adarna House.

Finally, Junior Inquirer was given a nice pat on the back by the Philippine Board on Books for Young People for giving you—our readers—your very own, really cool newspaper. Ahem!

What a wonderful month for books and young writers and a newspaper called Junior Inquirer!

Everyday Heroes

By Julien Dio
Grade 6, Miriam College
Grade School, Quezon City

HEROES: we read about them in comic books. We see them in the newspapers and think of them as human replicas of E.T. himself. However, there is another kind of hero who doesn't save damsels in distress and doesn't catch bad guys like Superman does.

They are everyday heroes: people who do simple things to make others happy.

Look around you, there are many of these people. They can be your parents, your teacher or you yourself.

Sometimes, when one does things to help others, one can't help but feel proud of herself for being of service to someone who is in need.

Some people say that they want to change the world to make it a better place, yet there is always one question that remains unanswered: *How will we do it?*

It's simple really; just think of others. Think about all the people in our world who need help. Think of how they will benefit from what we can do.

For example, we can wash dishes after dinner or iron the laundry on weekends. Running errands for the family is fun if we know that we are helping our moms and our dads by taking some load off their shoulders.

Being responsible, saving one's *baon* and studying diligently are also ways to help our parents and ourselves!

We all should be selfless and conscious of how others would feel if we do certain things, as well as how they would react if we do other things.

Sometimes, we can't help but think of ourselves and our problems all the time. We are so absorbed with so many things around us that we fail to think of how others see, feel or think of us. We miss the whole world by focusing on ourselves too much!

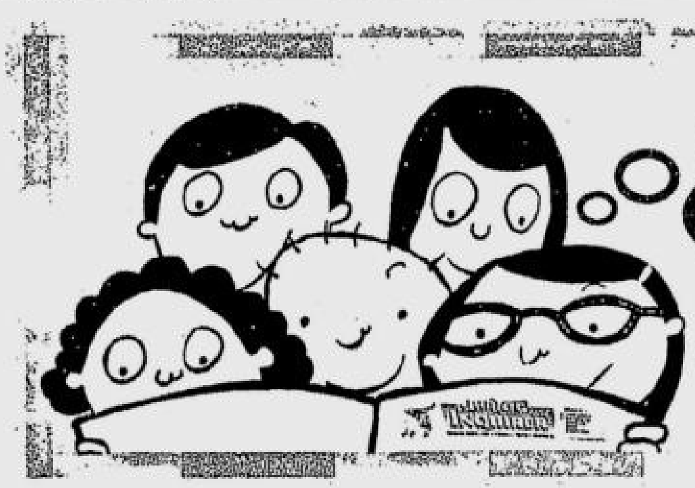
Though we tend to do this, we often do things for the sake of other people like going to church and praying for forgiveness and God's blessings. Playing games and spending time with our friends are also ways of helping one another.

We do these things because we care for each other.

We all do things with a great deal of love in our hearts. And because we do them with love in our hearts, we even turn simple things, like writing a thank you card or making a phone call to say hello, into a great act that makes other people happy.

So be a hero today. Do things with extraordinary love in your heart.

Sound Familiar ?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!



Straight from JI Readers

You can reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph
Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and phone number.
Hope to hear from you soon!

SUN MON TUES WED THRS FRI SAT

Letter from Leyte

DEAR Editor,

I'm an avid reader of your Junior Inquirer Special and I haven't missed a single issue or copy ever since I came across your May 31, 2003 edition. I find it very educational and exciting. It gives us fun and knowledge. I live in the town of Carigara in the far-flung province of Leyte and there isn't much to read. That's why I love it when I read Junior Inquirer.

I want to thank everyone who has helped create JI. I hope and pray that the Lord will help you continue your good work.—**CATHERINE P. GARRIDO**, 11, Grade 6, Cassidy Elementary School, Carigara, Leyte

Hi Catherine,

*We are thrilled by your letter because it lets us know we reach places where we were not read before. Thanks so much. I hope JI continues to satisfy your reading cravings.—**Eline Santos, JI Staff Writer***

Come back to normal

DEAR Editor,

I really like JI. I don't know when I started reading it, but it seems a long time ago!

I live in Los Baños, and I don't get JI every Saturday. This April to the last Saturday of May, I got JI in all of those Saturdays in a row.

But, when June started, (right after your first Junior Inquirer Special) your tabloid-sized JI stopped coming. I was so disappointed because I like JI very much.

Now I would only see JI every last Saturday of the month. Since then, I didn't see JI that often. All I want is to have it back. Thanks anyway for making JI nationwide, but I was wondering why the tabloid-sized JI can't be nationwide either.

P.S. You know I really like the "Cable Picks," "Straight from JI Readers" and "For or By Kids" sections, and I really miss them.—**MICHELLE STA. ROMANA**, 9, Los Baños, Laguna

Dear Michelle,

I, too, want JI to be nationwide all Saturdays of the month. And I'm sorry that you feel so bad about only getting JI once a month. Metro Manila schools still get the tabloid version. I know this may seem a little unfair. But maybe this is just a step closer to JI being available nationwide.

*You can still access JI on www.inq7.net/ji if you miss an issue. Thank you for your letter and we'll tell our bosses about it.—**The Editor***

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Nice Bike Ride

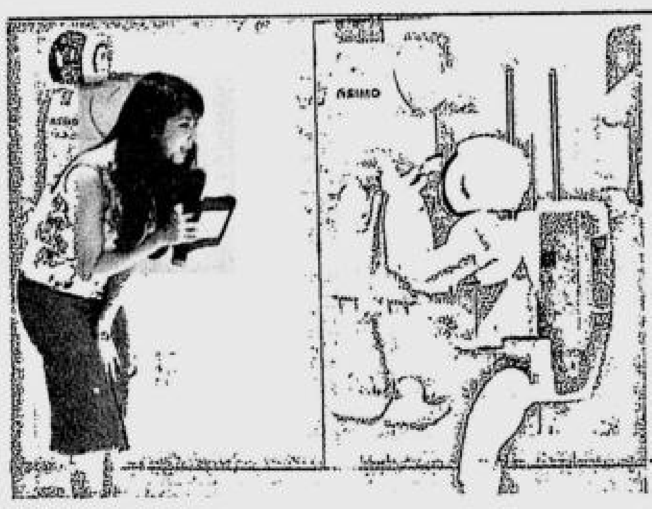
CYCLISTS ride in front of sunflowers during the 7th stage of the 90th Tour de France cycling race between Lyon and Morzine last July 12. *AFP*

Bush of Spades

KATHY Eder holds an ace of spades playing card featuring US President George W. Bush from a deck of "Operation Hidden Agenda" cards that she designed on July 16 in San Jose, California. Eder, a high school teacher, fed up with the Bush administration's "Most Wanted Iraqi" playing cards with Saddam Hussein and "Chemical Ali" decided to make her own deck which features members of the Bush administration. *AFP*

WORLD SCOPE

Lyon, France
California, USA
Florida, USA
Jakarta, Indonesia



Hello Asimo!

AN Indonesian model communicates with humanoid robot ASIMO (Advanced Step in Innovative Mobility) at a motor show in Jakarta. ASIMO, manufactured by Honda Motor Co., is an intelligent humanoid robot which is capable of interpreting postures and gestures of humans and moving independently in response. *AFP*

Underwater Music

DIVERS participating in the Lower Keys Underwater Music Festival in the Florida Keys pretend to play mock musical instruments. Nancy Herlehy of Big Pine Key blows air bubbles out of a facsimile of a horn, while her husband Mel swims behind with a fake guitar. Almost 400 divers and snorkelers got wet to listen to a Keys radio station's six-hour music broadcast piped below via underwater speakers at the Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary near Big Pine Key. *AFP*

Cutting-edge science creates stain-free pants

SCIENTISTS are wrestling with individual atoms to develop molecule-sized computers, tiny cancer-fighting robots that travel the bloodstream... and stain-resistant trousers.

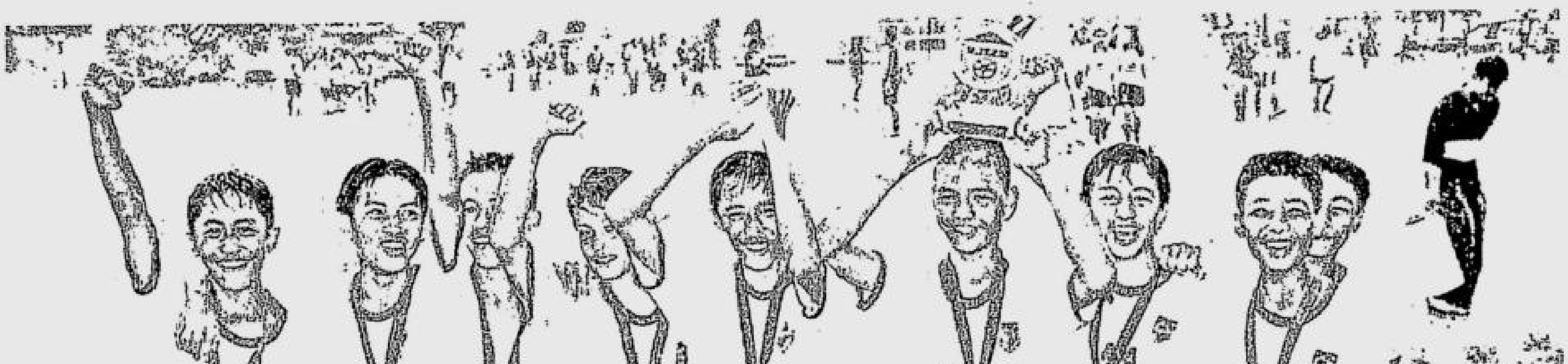
Nanotechnology—the science of manipulating materials billionths-of-a-meter wide—has emerged as a promising new field that could lead to stunning advances in years to come.

The stain- and wrinkle-resistant slacks were developed by Greensboro, North Carolina-based Nano-Tex LLC and sold by Eddie Bauer, Lee Jeans and several other retailers.

Billions of tiny whiskers create a thin cushion of air above the cotton fabric, smoothing out wrinkles and allowing liquids to bead up and roll off without a trace. *Reuters*

Claret School captures top football prize

By Eline Santos



GO CLARET! The game goes on in any weather and for the Claret team, it's raining medals as well. RUDY ESPERAS

CLARET School won in the Midgets A category of the preseason football festival of the Rizal Football Association (RIFA).

Held at the grounds of the Ateneo de Manila last July 20 and 21, the RIFA Football Festival drew schools from all over Metro Manila and soccer players of all ages.

Rules for the festival were more relaxed since it's the tuneup to the official season which starts in August.

There were eight age categories in all. Midgets A is for those born in 1990 (13 years old and below).

Participating schools included Ateneo de Manila, Quezon City; Colegio San Agustin, Makati; De La Salle Greenhills, San Juan; De La Salle Lipa, Lipa City; De La Salle Zobel, Muntinlupa; Don Bosco Technical College, Mandaluyong; Lourdes School, Quezon City; Marist School, Marikina; San Beda College, Manila; and PAREF Southridge School, Muntinlupa.

Claret won the day with a score of 3-2 against La Salle Greenhills in a penalty shootout.

"We're very happy," grinned team captain Deo Segunial, a seventh-grader at Claret.

Asked what ingredient was needed to win the game, everyone agreed: "Teamwork!"

Team co-captain, 12-year-old Miguel Pagdanganan added that "players shouldn't be selfish. They should keep passing the ball."

As a co-captain, Miguel added that "You have to be very responsible."

Claret School/ p. 6

Harry Potter by Two

JI contributors Luigi Baroa Manzo and Bhel C. Certeza give you two ways of seeing "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."

Visiting Harry

Review by Bhel Certeza
University of Rizal System-Morong

YIKES! I was almost stepped on by people who waited to get their copy of J.K. Rowling's latest addition to her bestselling series, **"Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."** But it was worth the wait because the 870-page book was definitely an adventure.

Anticipating weird happenings since the return of He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named in full flesh and power, Harry anxiously listens to the Muggle news during the summer. He is also haunted by dreams of himself walking along a dark corridor that ends with a door.

New Worries in Hogwarts

Returning to Hogwarts on his fifth year, Harry's worries include passing the Ordinary Wizarding Levels examination; adjusting to a new Defense against the Dark Arts teacher; his best friend Ron making the Quidditch team; and a new Headmaster. Yes, you heard me right. Prof. Albus Dumbledore has been replaced.

Even Harry's scar would not cooperate with him because it keeps on hurting more often than before.

More revelations on the mystery of Harry's scar and his parents are the main attraction of Rowling's new novel. Not to mention Harry's first kiss and his somewhat uncontrollable rage.

Like I'm There

When I read the book, I felt like I was also in Hogwarts. Like I was Harry's classmate. I even "spotted" my favorite character, Rita Skeeter while reading. We met when I accidentally bumped into her on one of the seats where she was eavesdropping in Three Broomsticks at Hogsmead three years ago.

Some situations described in the novel can be pretty scary for younger kids. Scenes from Harry's dream might trigger a nightmare.

Thinking once, twice or even ten times before doing an action was definitely the lesson I've learned after finishing the book. Harry had to learn this too because unthinking actions could have caused the death of somebody he treasures a lot.

It was definitely another adventure for me and the other Potter fanatics out there in venturing the pages of this new novel. Now it's time for me to bring my book next door because my cousin keeps on buggin' me for the book. Till next time! Tata!

E-mail the author at belolats@yahoo.com

Harry Potter
and the Order of the Phoenix
J.K. ROWLING

"Yes, you heard me right. Prof. Dumbledore has been replaced."

Exciting, But Not Perfect

Review by Luigi Baroa Manzo
Ateneo de Manila Grade School

TEN million copies off the presses on its initial run and all sold out by the third day of its release. No other book in recent years has excited readers from all generations than the worldwide bestseller **"Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix."**

Wanting to be one of the first to read and finish the novel (or else be beaten by spoilers squealing about the juicy parts), I was one of those fanatics who made certain I had a reserved copy way ahead. And I did this in several bookstores in Metro Manila.

There were no drinks and sandwiches nor frills or a welcome bash in the bookstore where I stood in line that Saturday. But while I waited with several other passionate HP readers, bubbly and animated discussions were in full swing, each of us guessing possible twists and scenarios in the continuing saga of our favorite wizard Harry Potter.

Good & Bad

Did the book come up to our expectations? Yes and no. In "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," some questions that had been left hanging in earlier books are finally explained and answered. We now have a clear picture of each character, their charm and strangeness, temper and spirit, and the exact role they will portray in the story.

Harry Potter is now a young adolescent having his share of problems in both the muggle and wizarding worlds. J.K. Rowling began with an action-packed chapter in "Dudley Demented." The scene is colorfully described and you can actually see in your mind's eye how Harry and his annoying muggle cousin Dudley are assaulted by the icy dementors.

The beginning is fast-paced and the plot thickens as with every chapter. The excitement builds up so much that I could not stop reading. I felt that I was pushed to read faster and faster.

Umbridge Upstages

We meet my favorite character Professor Umbridge, the despicable and loathsome Defense against the Dark Arts teacher. She's the know-it-all, all-theory-no-practice instructor who despises Harry for unknown reasons.

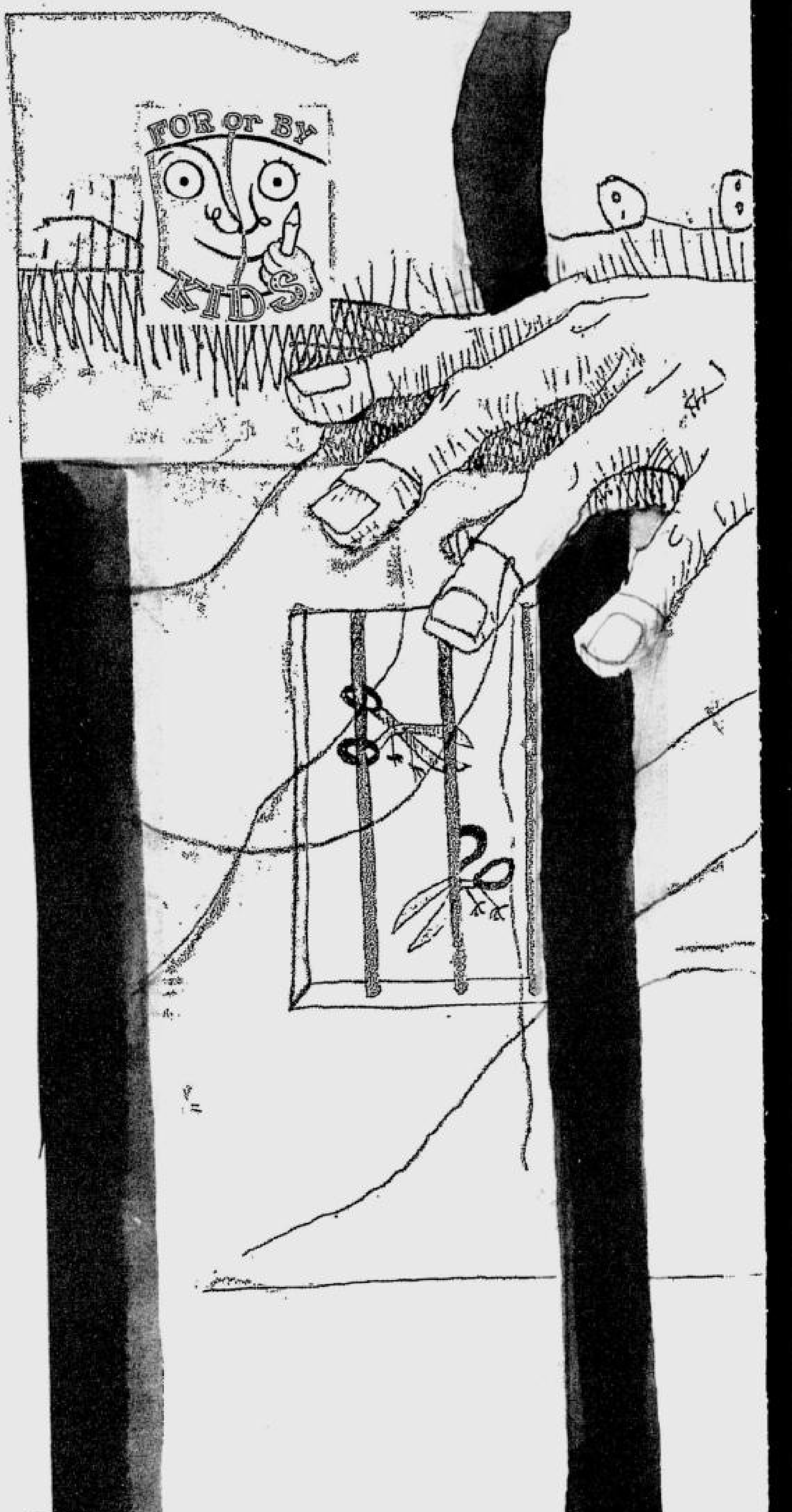
She seems to have more power than Fudge, more spite than Snape, more quirkiness than Trelawny and gives more exciting punishments than Filch. She may be bad but her personality is the most out of the ordinary and electrifying. Professor Umbridge rules in this book.

Deep, Dark, Secret

The book fails somehow in the middle where there was less action and more dialogue. It turned worse when Rowling committed a blunder and messed up another favorite character of mine: the mysterious and intriguing Sirius Black. The last few chapters regained its initial tempo, but then the story was abruptly concluded. The ending bared shocking revelations of deep dark secrets that leave us hanging with more questions and pessimistic thoughts on Harry's future in the wizarding world.

These are my personal notes and I am sure not everyone will agree with me. But whatever differences of opinion we readers may have about the storyline, I think we will all agree that HP the continuing series have greatly influenced kids like us worldwide. Harry Potter novels have exposed the young to the beautiful and magical world of books. Reading can now be labeled fun and truly enjoyable. Hopefully from the works of J.K. Rowling we will move on and learn to appreciate genuine literature and the classics written by the masters.

E-mail the author at luigi.manzo@skyinet.net



FRIEN

An Essay by Max Singer
Illustrations by Jason Moss

MY great-grandfather, Manuel A. Roxas, was president of the Philippines. Few people know that he once came very close to death, but with his brilliant mind, he was able to overcome these challenges and become President. I will tell you how that happened.

War came to our country in 1941, when the Japanese army invaded the Philippines. The Americans had to retreat because they ran out of weapons to fight the enemy. For five years, the Filipinos suffered under their new leaders. At that time, my great-granddad was not yet President. Since he was a known Filipino leader, Roxas was asked by the Japanese to lead the Philippines for bad purposes.

He was going to be their puppet president, but only to do what they told him to do. They call it a puppet president because somebody pulls the strings on a puppet, not the puppet himself.

My great-grandfather wanted to say no. *How do I get out of this predicament?* he asked himself. *I don't want to work for these people.* My grandfather was smart. He had a plan.

Inside his prison cell, he jogged and jogged till he was sweating and exhausted. He ran a fever. He was also coughing because he had tuberculosis. He pretended to be very, very sick when the Japanese examined him. This man is too sick to lead, the Japanese thought.

They decided to send him to a prison camp in Malaybalay, Bukidnon, in the southern part of the Philippines. At the prison camp, Roxas met a Japanese officer named Colonel Nobuhiko Jimbo. They had a few conversations. One day Colonel Jimbo

order. He was commanded

prisoners. Roxas was one

Jimbo felt sad. He enjoyed ta

He thought Roxas was very

be a good leader to his peopl

On the way to the place

men were to be killed, Colon

front of the car. He was liste

prisoners talking behind hi

prisoners were very scared.

ing for their lives. Roxas, o

was quiet. The time he spok

"Look at all those white flow

side of the mountain. Ho

are."

This amazed the Japan

could he be facing death and

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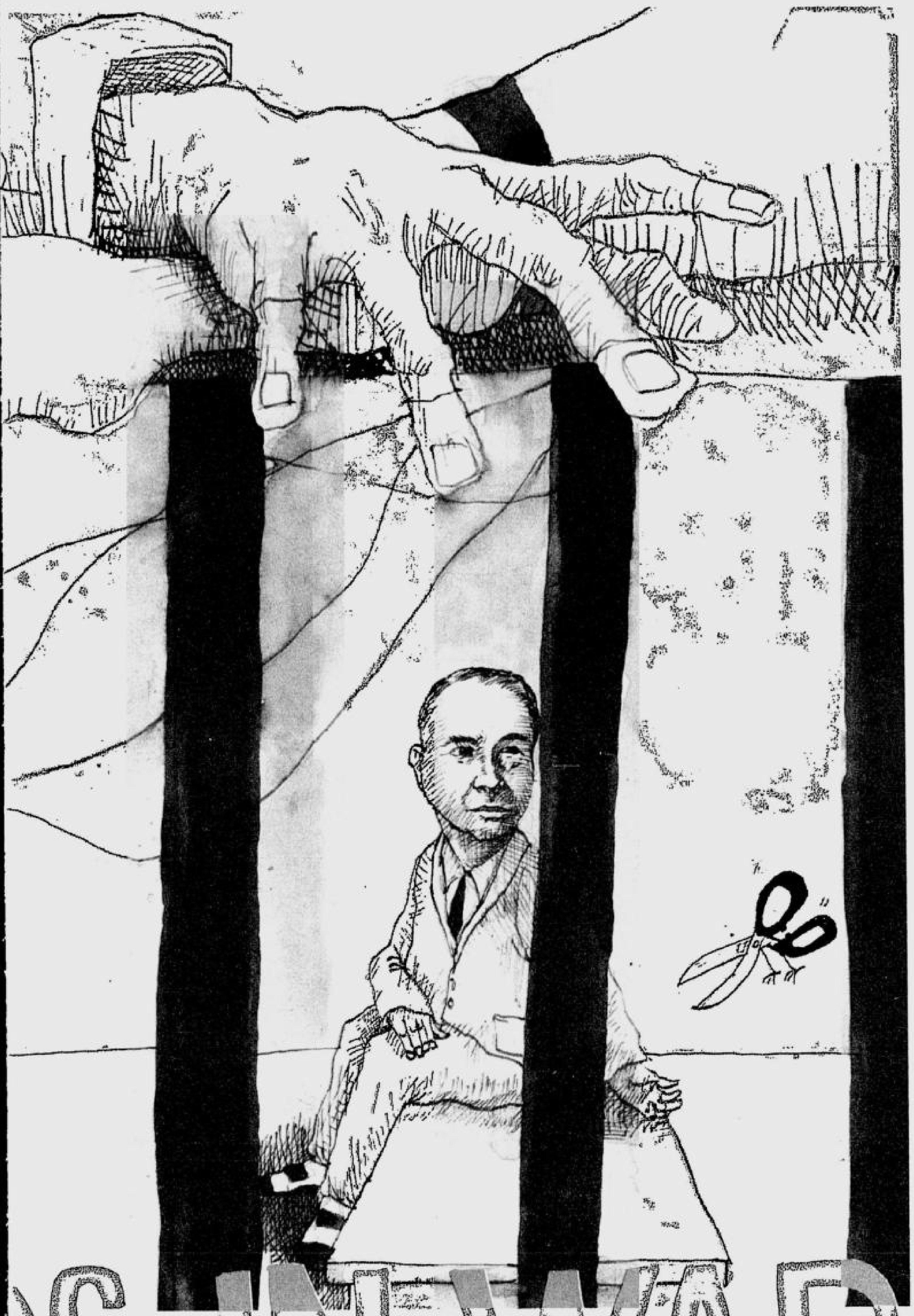
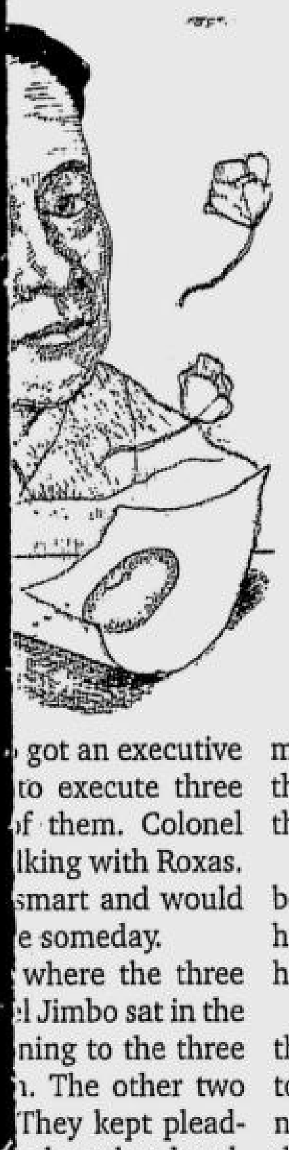


S IN WAR



> "One day Colonel Jimbo got an executive order. He was commanded to execute three prisoners. Roxas was one of them."

got an executive
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where the three
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the other hand,
was only to say,
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beautiful they

se officer. How
be so calm? This

man is one in ten thousand, he thought.

Then Colonel Jimbo made a decision. I have to save this man, he decided.

When they got there, Colonel Jimbo told the firing squad not to fire at Roxas. I don't know what happened to the other two prisoners. Later, Jimbo told his boss that the execution was carried out. He lied.

Years passed. The Americans came and kicked out the Japanese. And Roxas became the first president of the Philippine Republic.

While he was president, my great-grandfather got a letter one day. It was from Mrs. Jimbo. She wrote to ask him a favor. Her husband, Colonel Jimbo, had gone to China to fight the Chinese as a soldier for the Japanese army. Jimbo was caught and jailed for many months. No one could help Mrs. Jimbo get her husband out of prison. So she wrote to President Roxas.

My grandfather wrote a letter right away to the Chinese government. He told them what a fine man Colonel Jimbo was and how he had once saved his life. The Chinese government released the prisoner. Now it was Roxas who saved Jimbo's life!

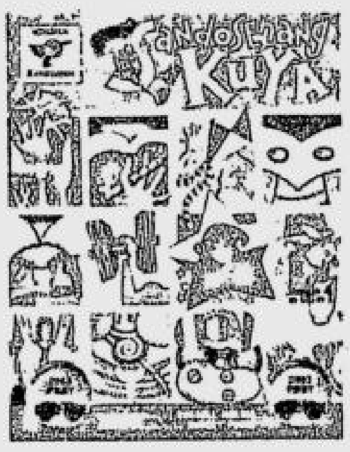
I know all this to be kind of true because even though I never met my great-grandfather, Colonel Jimbo lived long enough to talk to my mother's father about this amazing story. A story about two friends who saved each other's lives in a time of war.

__Max__ is a Grade 5 student at International School Manila.

__Jason__ is a painter, illustrator and editorial cartoonist. His latest book, "Arthur's Angry," is his 2nd collaboration with Australian author Leslie Hicks.

IGGY IPIS BOOK REVIEWS

12 Big Brothers, One Baby Brother and One Fantabulous Hat



COCKROACHES have more than a hundred brothers and sisters. But we don't nearly have as much fun as the little boy and his twelve big brothers in Russell Molina's award-winning story **"Sandosenang Kuya."**

Having twelve big brothers means having twelve playmates in every game. Twelve big brothers become twelve tutors who help you with your homework. Twelve big brothers can tell twelve different kinds of funny stories when you need cheering up too. What's that? Your own big brother isn't half as nice? Tell him to read this story with you, and you'll both see how there's more than one way to be a good brother. Plus, it's the grand prize-winner of the 2003 PBBY Salanga Writers' Prize with goofy illustrations by Hubert Fucio.

Now, if you don't have a big brother, here's a book you can read to your little brother or sister. **"Brave Little Baby Dan"** is about a small, small kid in a loud and noisy world. When everything makes a royal racket, from the yowling cat to the jeeps beep-beep-beeping in the street, Baby Dan finds it hard not to be frightened. This story by Maria Catherine Garcia-Gatchalian shows why there's no reason for Baby Dan to be scared. If you read this aloud, you can even teach your little sibling the different sounds made by the critters and contraptions found in your neighborhood.

Finally, if you've ever dreamed of finding an ordinary thing that secretly contains extraordinary magic, you'll love Jose Miguel "Jomike" Tejido's **"Ang Pambihirang Sombrero."** Mia finds a hat inside her grandmother's trunk, but when she wears it outside, people want to give her strange things. In fact, they want to put those things on top of her hat! Jomike's amazing and funny illustrations reveal as many mysteries as the story itself. Do share this story with your siblings too.

All three books are available at the National Bookstore and all Adarna book dealers.

Sombrero
BRAVE Little Baby DAN

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Lian The Author

Lian is a published author at 8 years old

By Eline Santos

LIAN Kyla Dyogi describes herself as a thinker.

"I like to think," says the 8-year-old Miriam College third-grader. "Thinking includes everything I do."

Lian's Angels

Her thinking power has produced a book of her very own, "The Little Angel who Lost her Wing," published by Lampara Books last year. People liked it so much that Lian has been asked to do a second book. "But I'm still thinking of the story," she explains.

Lian thought of her angel story when she was just 5 years old. "I'm not sure how I came up with it," she shrugs.

"This is Star, she helps me think," Lian shows off a cute angel doll. "I think I have 12 guardian angels. I used to have a list of their names but I can't find it."

Book-Loving Writer

Lian would make her own books from bond paper stapled together. Her parents would sometimes help put her ideas into words.

She also keeps a journal. The contents are top secret but Lian does say it contains "sadness, gladness, madness... all the feelings!"

In her room, she has a shelf-full of neatly kept books.

"I love reading," Lian gushes. Some of her favorite authors include EB White (Charlotte's Web), Frank Baum (Wizard of Oz), J.K. Rowling (Harry Potter), and more. "I like Roald Dahl best."

Aside from being an avid reader, Lian is into music too.

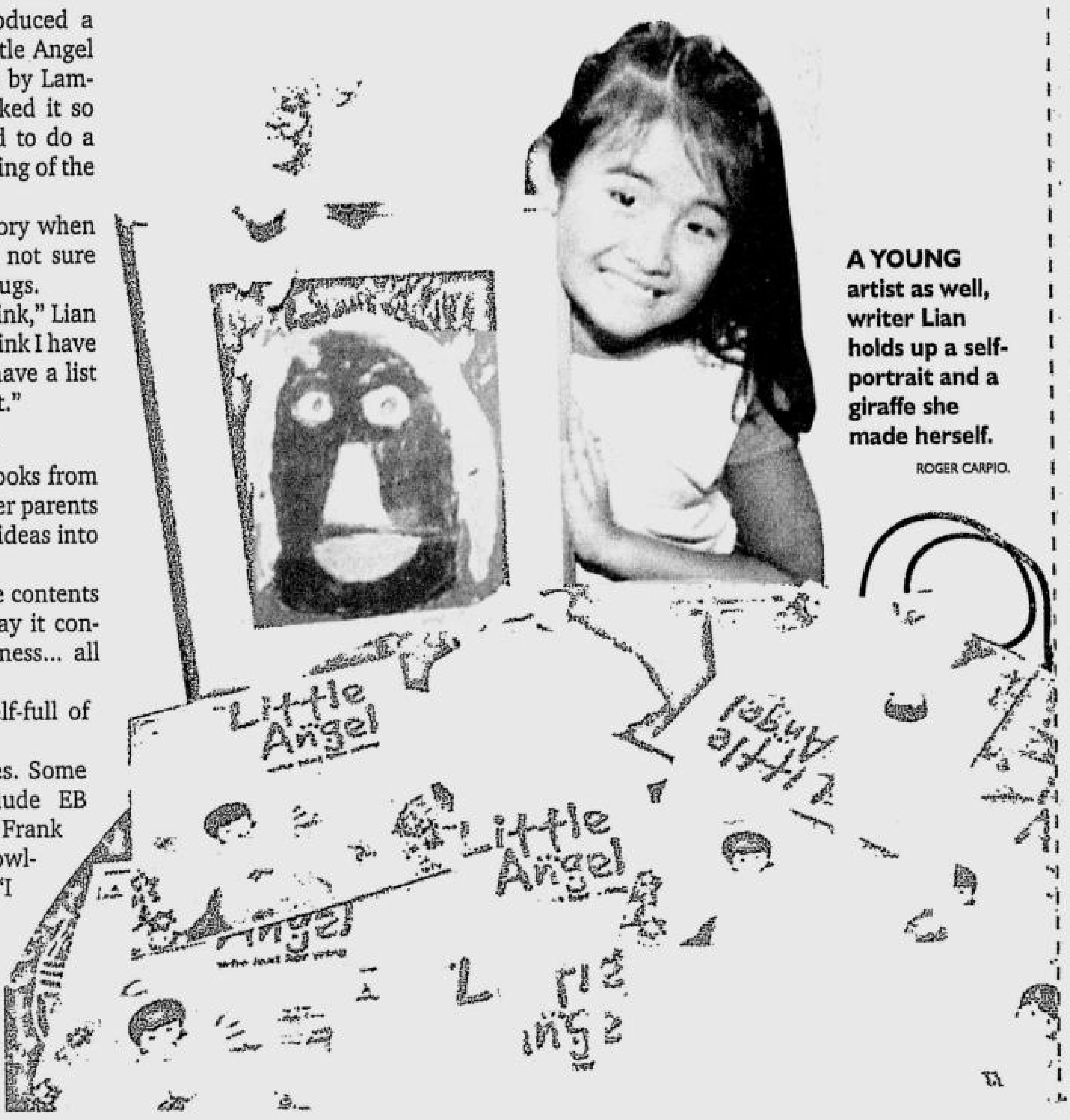
"I applied in the glee club at school."

She sings a few lines from "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." "It's a very fun song," Lian smiles.

This cheerful thinker also enjoys creating art. She has a giraffe she made herself and a self-portrait framed on her bedroom wall. Lian also has a brown envelope full of artworks, some of which show the things she invents in her head.

Lian is a lot of things (a writer, a singer, and—did I mention a karate orange belter?) but always, she is herself.

"Just be a kid. If you're a teen then be a teen. It's fun being a kid. I used to want to grow up very fast but now I just enjoy being myself."



A YOUNG artist as well, writer Lian holds up a self-portrait and a giraffe she made herself.

ROGER CARPIO.

Kids'r'rrific

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces
corner Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid'r'rrific
nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ____________________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____

She/he lives at ____________________

and studies at ____________________

Her/his contact number is: ____________________

Sender's Name: ____________________

Sender's Age & School: ____________________

Sender's Address: ____________________

Sender's Contact No. ____________________

Claret School captures top football prize

(from page 3)

He shared that sometimes he and Deo would be the ones to arrange their line-up of players. They would also lead the others in stretching exercises.

The runners-up in the football festival were La Salle Greenhills, Ateneo de Manila, and Don Bosco Technical College.

Soccer Lovers

Even if they didn't win, no one lost any love for the game.

"The thing I like about soccer is how you make new friends with the other schools," said 12-year-old Sylvest Zara of San Beda College. "We learn new things, we become more disciplined."

"Soccer is one of the best games in the world—it's the most played. I love it!" enthused Jonathan Sewell, a seventh-grader also from San Beda.

"I don't feel stressed. It gives me confidence and makes me learn how to handle things," shared team captain Juan Carlos Bernardo, a sixth-grader at the Ateneo.

"*Masaya*. You get to bond with your classmates because in 'class, it's all study and you don't get to talk much," added Kirk John Vista, a 12-year-old from the Don Bosco Technical College.

For the girls too

"Soccer is not only a boy's sport but it's also for girls. It's really fun," says team captain Lauren Laudico, a seventh-grader at the Poveda Learning Center in Quezon City.

"The game is supposed to be rough. That's what's fun about it," adds Trina Razon, another Povedan. "You get to play rough and not be too girly. Sometimes I guess girls have to show that they're tough, too."

Teams in the aspirants category (those born in 1988) came from Miriam College, Quezon City; PAREF Woodrose School, Muntinlupa; Poveda Learning Center, Quezon City; Reedley International School, Pasig; and St. Benedict College, Muntinlupa.

Woodrose won the girls' competition.

E-mail the author at esantos@inquirer.com.ph

FANCY FOOTWORK. Woodrose and Miriam girls battle over the ball.

RUDY ESPERAS

JI wins book board award

(from page 1)

"My favorite book? Let's see... I like a lot of books. I'm fond of reading. My favorite now is 'Sphere' by Michael Crichton. It's rather fascinating because it's about having the power to have anything you can imagine."—**RC Denia**, Grade 5, Immaculate Conception Academy, San Juan

"'Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix' because it contains a whole new world of Harry Potter. We get to know about the Order and what it is protecting. There's another death of a character. And Harry knowing a past memory of Professor Snape."—**Mark Castillo**, Grade 6, De La Salle Greenhills, San Juan

"I have one that I really like. It's 'Diary of an Anorexic Girl' by Morgan Menzie. I like it because it teaches me to depend more on God and to be strong and confident."—**Faith Eliza Sta. Maria**, Grade 6, Shekinah Christian Training Center, Parañaque

NICE SAVE! The ball bounces off goalie Miguel Roy's hands from La Salle Greenhills in a penalty shoot-out versus fierce rival Ateneo.

RUDY ESPERAS

SHIRLEY'S PETS

by robert magnuson

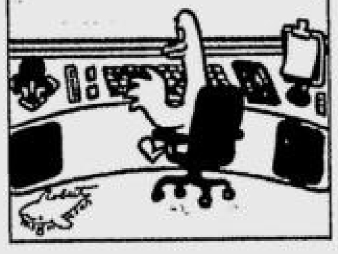
Previously In Shirley's Pets Mystery Duck's Entry:

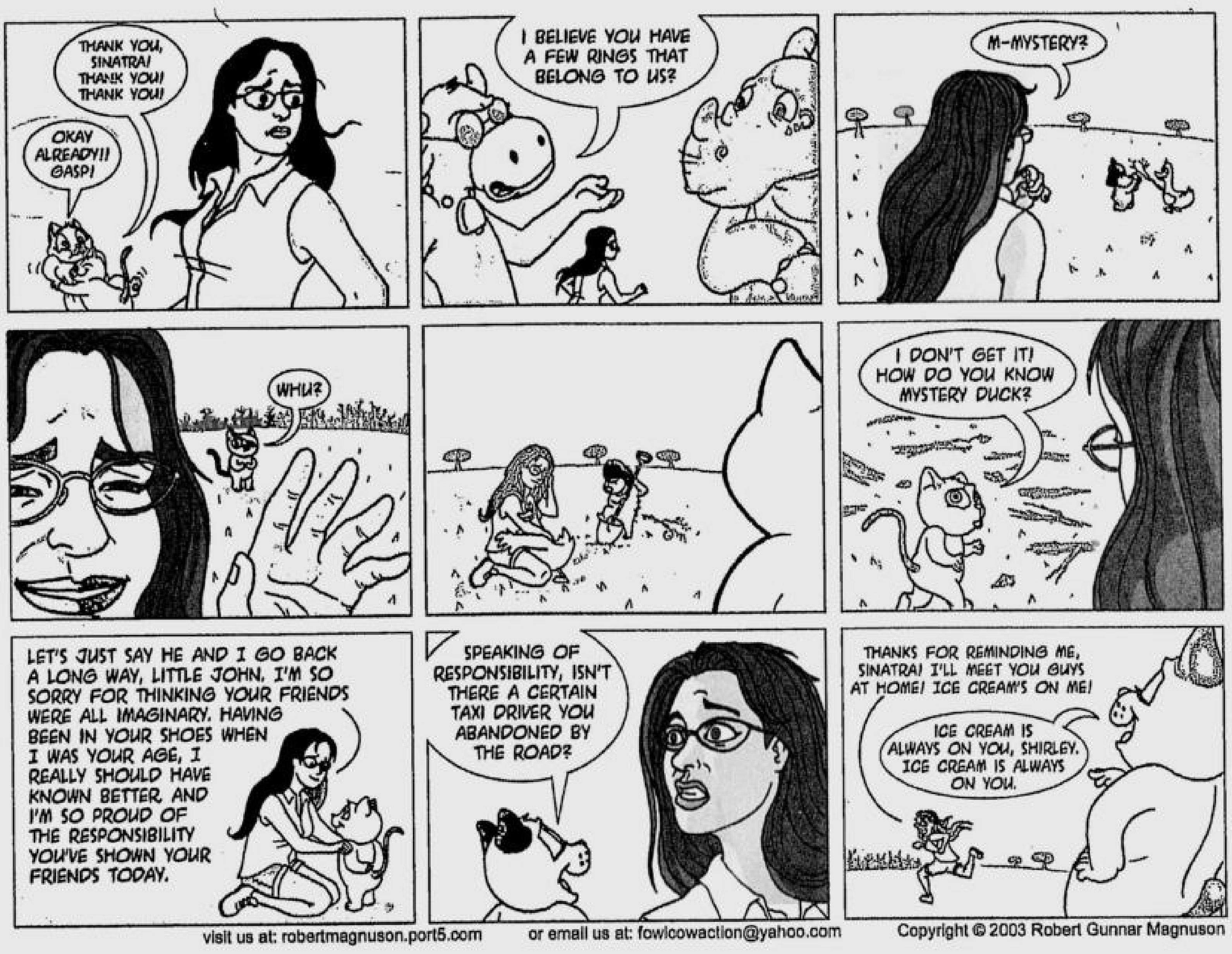
Little John's ring has been returned.

His sister, Sinatra Therese, has been freed from the clutches of the dreaded (well, the not-so-dreaded) Gardushdush.

Our Clubhouse Tree may have fallen, but Sinatra has provided us with the means to plant new trees.

But I suspect there is a certain human who has yet to confirm an old friend's identity...




THANK YOU, SINATRA! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
OKAY ALREADY!! GASP!
I BELIEVE YOU HAVE A FEW RINGS THAT BELONG TO US?
M-MYSTERY?
WHU?
I DON'T GET IT! HOW DO YOU KNOW MYSTERY DUCK?
LET'S JUST SAY HE AND I GO BACK A LONG WAY, LITTLE JOHN. I'M SO SORRY FOR THINKING YOUR FRIENDS WERE ALL IMAGINARY. HAVING BEEN IN YOUR SHOES WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE, I REALLY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER. AND I'M SO PROUD OF THE RESPONSIBILITY YOU'VE SHOWN YOUR FRIENDS TODAY.
SPEAKING OF RESPONSIBILITY, ISN'T THERE A CERTAIN TAXI DRIVER YOU ABANDONED BY THE ROAD?
THANKS FOR REMINDING ME, SINATRA! I'LL MEET YOU GUYS AT HOME! ICE CREAM'S ON ME!
ICE CREAM IS ALWAYS ON YOU, SHIRLEY. ICE CREAM IS ALWAYS ON YOU.

visit us at: robertmagnuson.port5.com or email us at: fowlcowaction@yahoo.com

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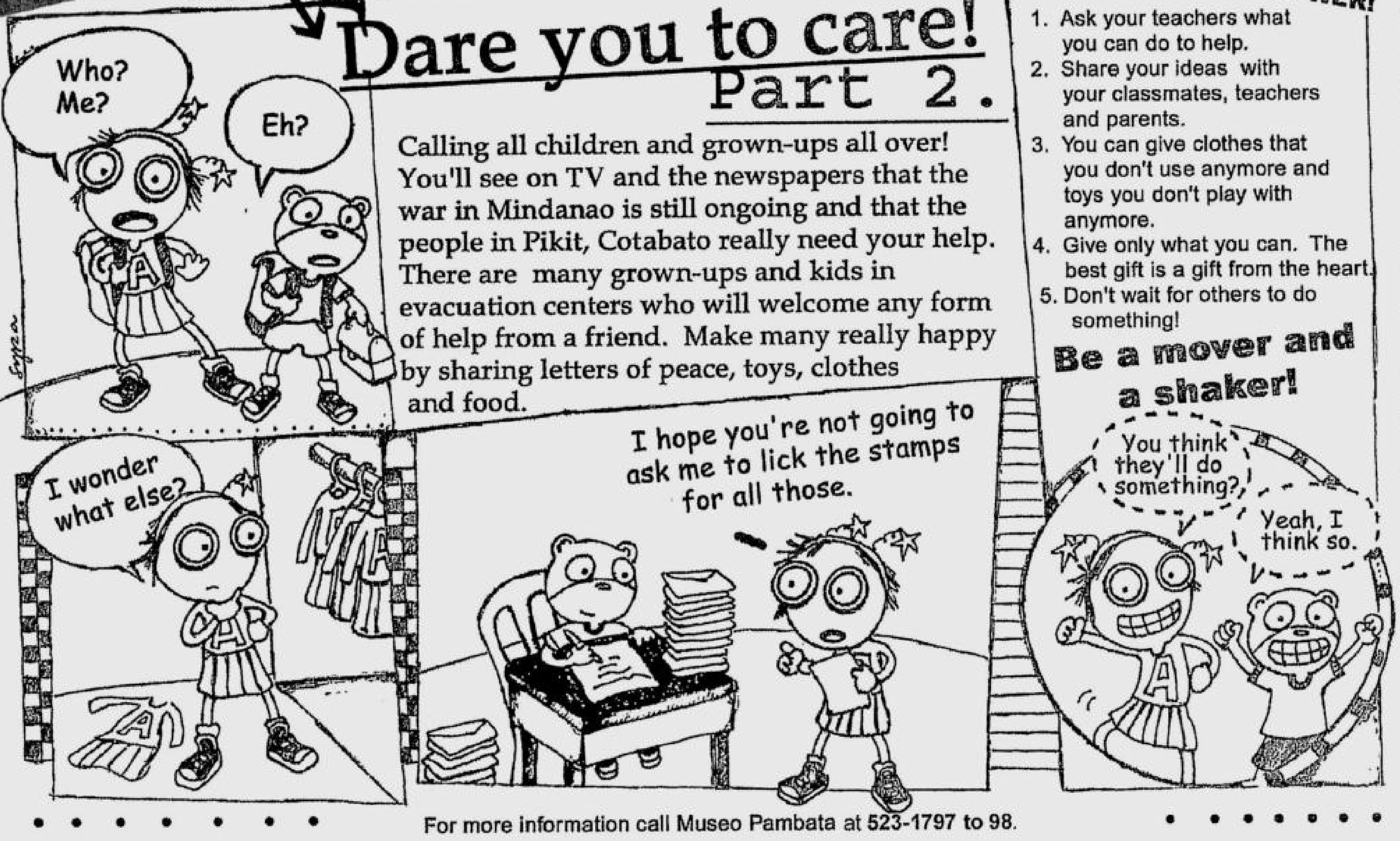
Atom & Weboy Buddha Bear

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

WE CAN ALWAYS RELY ON KID POWER!

Dare you to care! Part 2.


Who? Me?
Eh?
I wonder what else?
I hope you're not going to ask me to lick the stamps for all those.
You think they'll do something?
Yeah, I think so.

Calling all children and grown-ups all over! You'll see on TV and the newspapers that the war in Mindanao is still ongoing and that the people in Pikit, Cotabato really need your help. There are many grown-ups and kids in evacuation centers who will welcome any form of help from a friend. Make many really happy by sharing letters of peace, toys, clothes and food.

1. Ask your teachers what you can do to help.
2. Share your ideas with your classmates, teachers and parents.
3. You can give clothes that you don't use anymore and toys you don't play with anymore.
4. Give only what you can. The best gift is a gift from the heart.
5. Don't wait for others to do something!

Be a mover and a shaker!

For more information call Museo Pambata at 523-1797 to 98.

THE LUNCH BOX

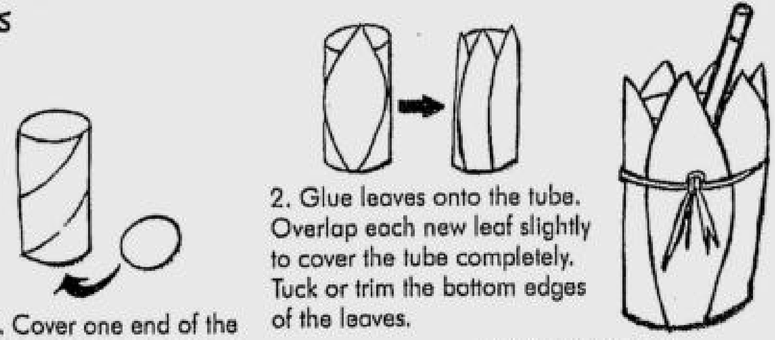
by Katrina B. Villa

ART N. CRAFT

soon-to-be-famous, all around creative guy!

YOU'LL NEED A TOILET PAPER ROLL AND SOME LEAVES FOR THIS

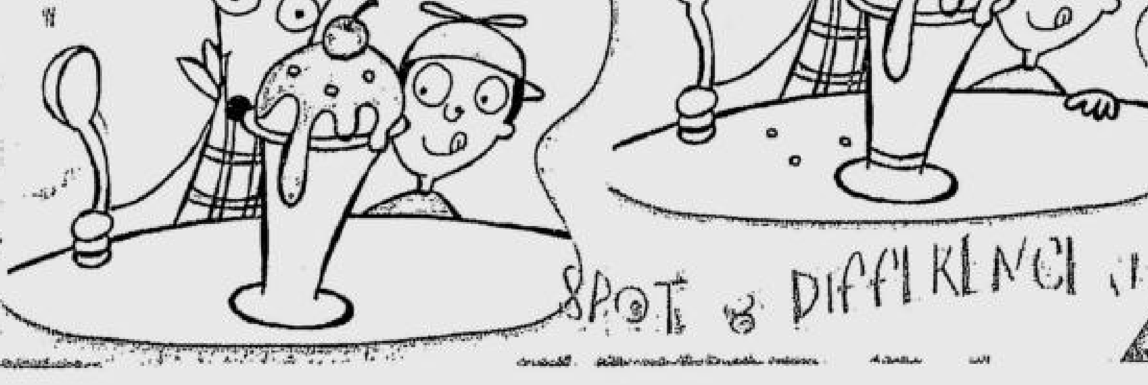
LOVELY, LEAFY, PENCIL-KEEPY



1. Cover one end of the tube by gluing a piece of cardboard traced and cut to size.
2. Glue leaves onto the tube. Overlap each new leaf slightly to cover the tube completely. Tuck or trim the bottom edges of the leaves.
3. You can add a final touch by tying a ribbon or leaf (try a coconut leaf) around the tube. Your Pencil-Keepy is ready to hold your writing tools!

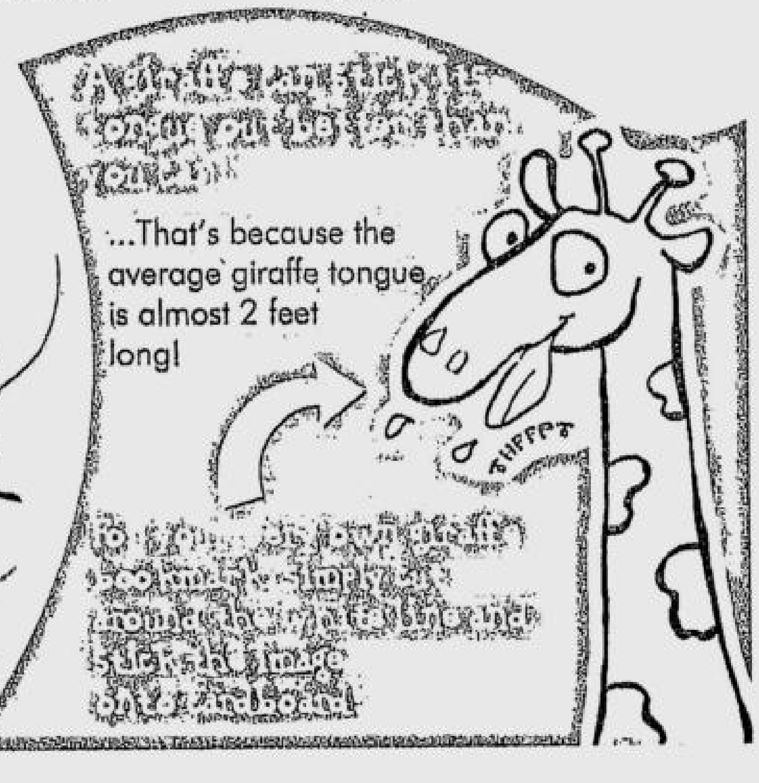
SUNDAY SUNDAE?

There are many conflicting stories about the origin of the ice cream sundae. One story goes that in New York in 1891, a pastor and one of his parishioners went to an ice cream parlor after church. The pastor's pal thought of pouring syrup over a scoop of ice cream, and topped it with a cherry. The pastor named it a "Cherry Sunday", after the day on which it was invented.



SPOT 8 DIFFERENCES

ANSWERS: 1. candy sprinkles on table 2. sundae glass 3. spoon 4. cherry 5. boy's hand 6. bernard's ear 7. napkin 8. boy's cap



...That's because the average giraffe tongue is almost 2 feet long!

OUT THERE

By Christine Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax number is 897-4794, and our e-mail address is ji@inquirer.com.ph.

Workshops

ACTING AND DANCE. Join Trumpets' acting and dance classes every Saturday from July to September. Kids can enroll in the following classes: **Music and Movement for Preschool, Children's Musical Theatre, animation, and streetdance.** Classes will be held at Stageworx, 5th Floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall. For inquiries, call 636-2842 or 633-5010, or e-mail Playshop_admin@pacific.net.ph.

Contests

CARTOON NETWORK PRIZE. Cartoon Network and the Metro Manila Mayors' League are now accepting nominations to the **Mayors' Awards of Excellence 2003.** Schools and *barangays* may nominate kids ages 10 to 16 who have outstanding achievements in leadership, the arts and sports. All entries must be in by Aug. 30. For inquiries, call Perceptions at 891-3396/ 3556/3485.

POSTER-MAKING CONTEST. Join the **Citizens' Disaster Response Center's** poster-making contest for children. The contest is open to kids ages 7 to 9 (Category A) and 10 to 12 (Category B). Deadline for the submission of entries is on Sept. 15. Call 428-7860, 924-0386 or 929-9822 for more details, or e-mail rpidcdrc@i-manila.com.ph.

Promo

NBS TREAT. In celebration of **Children's Book Month,** National Book Store offers a book fest promo on children's books. Every P300-purchase of children's and young adult books marked with smiley stickers entitles customers to a raffle coupon. Prizes include Sony discman items, board games and books! Promo runs until Aug. 10.

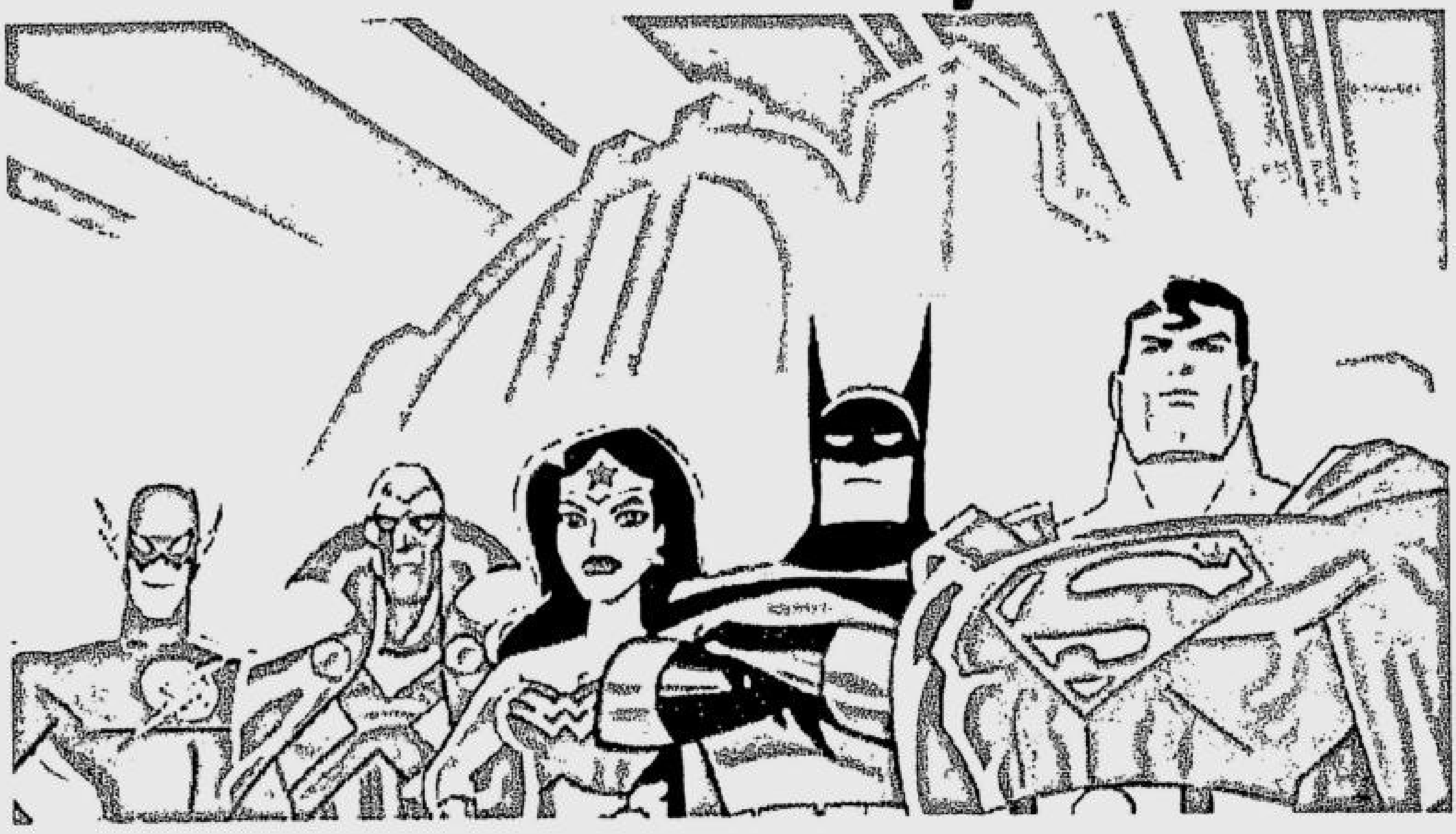
Your favorite comic book superheroes come alive in myGlobe

COMIC book enthusiasts don't have to hold their breath until September to catch their favorite DC and Marvel comic book heroes come together in the milestone comic book JLA/Avengers. Images of DC comic's greatest heroes and Marvel comic's mighty can now be downloaded faster than a speeding bullet via myGlobe!

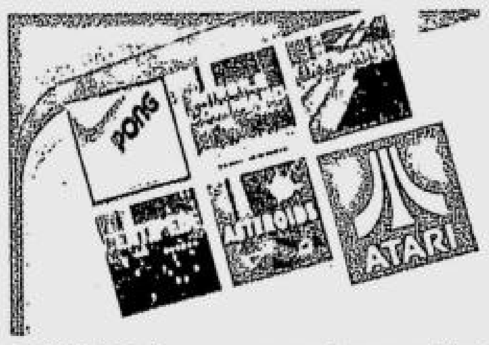
The Justice League is DC comics' flagship super-team composed of Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, The Flash, Green Lantern, Hawk Girl and Martian Manhunter. They are joined by Marvel's famous mutants, the X-Men, the Incredible Hulk and Daredevil as the downloadable heroes in your cellphone.

To download exclusive Justice League and Marvel icons, logos and ringtones, text the keywords JL to 2375 or MARVEL to 2346. cost per download is P15 only. For those who want to avail themselves of exclusive colored Justice League and Marvel wallpapers and polytones, go to the myGlobe WAP site, then click the appropriate links. Cost for each successful download is P20.

So what are you waiting for? Get in on the super-hero action by downloading from myGlobe now.



Classic Atari games reborn in myGlobe



MYGLOBE lets you experience a blast from the past by unearthing and putting a mobile spin on the old yet still incomparably exciting Atari games of the 1980s!

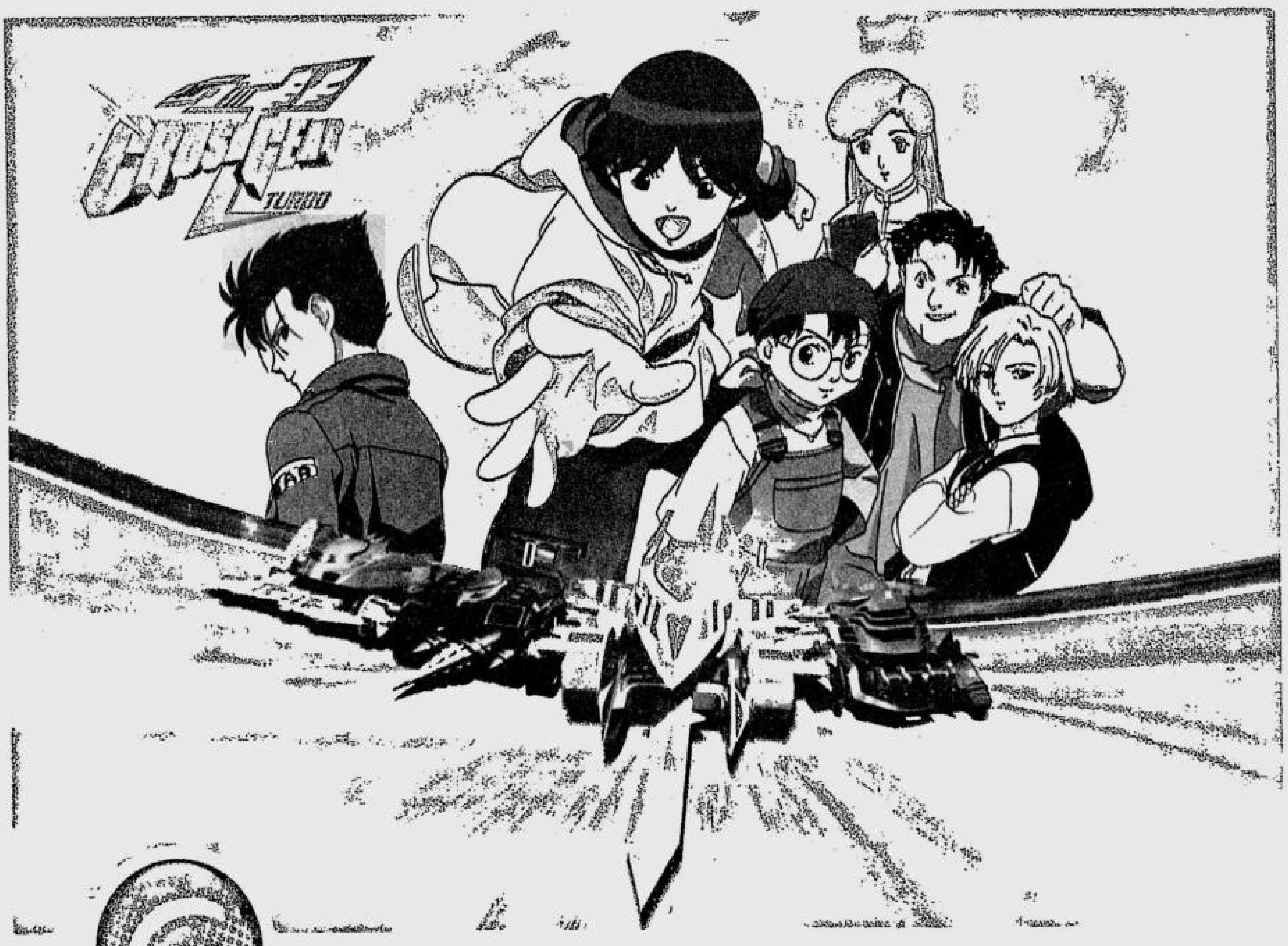
The grand-daddy of today's Xbox and Playstation games can now be accessed using myGlobe on your Globe Handyphone. Do the games Asteroid, Breakout, Pong, Missile Command and Centipede ring a bell? Globe has polished these precious Atari games to let 80s kids relive their wonder years, at the same time letting a new generation of gamers experience the excitement of Atari video gaming, the mobile way.

Asteroids is the classic shoot 'em up game. Your favorite objective is to gun down crashing asteroids before it destroys your spaceship on contact. The goal of Breakout, on the other hand, is to diminish rows upon rows of colored bricks by bouncing a ball off your bat. Apparently, Pong is a computerized version of table tennis, but with a twist. Missile Command lets you be the hero by saving your besieged city from missile attacks. And lastly, the aim of Centipede is to blast a menacing multi-legged terror into oblivion.

To download these classic Atari video games, just click the Atari HandyGames link from you're myGlobe WAP site, and presto! The best of 1980s video gaming fun will be snappily downloaded onto your cellphone. Cost per download is a mere P30.

Only myGlobe gives you mobile access to the most glorious games of the 80s. Log on to myGlobe now and let the games begin.

The grand-daddy of today's Xbox and Playstation games can now be accessed using myGlobe on your Globe Handyphone



all i want is in MYGLOBE
icons & textcards

The best Gear Fighters are all here! Download Crush Gear! Go!

WALLPAPER

crush gear logo, yuya1, crush gear team, kouya and eagle, kyousuken, jirou and bull, jorou1, wildstag, kuroundo, kouya2

TEXT CARDS

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ICONS

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Yuya
Kouya
Takeshi
Kuroudo
Lilica
Kyousuke
Dino Spartan
Jirou
Shooting Mirage

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Text CG to 2366.

TO DOWNLOAD:

Icons and Text Cards:
Text the keywords to 2366
Example: L CGEAR1

Colored Wallpaper:
Go to the myGlobe WAP site.
Under "What's New"
click on "Crush Gear Wallpaper".

ICONS & TEXT CARD:
Only P15 per download.

COLORED WALLPAPER:
Only P20 per download.

To get a free list of compatible phones, text PHONES or MMSPHONES to 2375.

Watch Crush Gear on ABS-CBN, Monday to Friday at 5 pm

PinoyCentral

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